WALL OF FORTUNE
OFFICIALS SAY REC CENTRE WILL CHANGE LIVES
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HOLIDAY HAZARDS
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VIRGIN TERRITORY
SIR BRANSON IS SAVING FORESTS
{page 21}

WINNIPEG
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EVAN KROSNEY/CONTRIBUTED

▶ This photo taken at Sprucewoods Provincial Park is a finalist in the contest. More of his photos can be viewed at flickr.com/photos/evankr/

A snapshot of a rising star

Teen beat out more than 3,700 other entries from young photographers aged 14-24 Love of photography is a hobby, wants to be a physicist

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Martian red pines stand tall against the backdrop of a burnt sienna sky flecked with stars. The image looks like it was shot on another planet, but it's actually a photo taken in Manitoba by 14-year-old Evan Krosney.

The Oak Park School teen's photo, Beauties of the Milky Way, was the only Manitoba submission to win a place in the top 40 for the National Capital Commission's environmentally themed EcoArt contest.

"I'm definitely honoured," Krosney said. "Out of all the people (who submitted their photos) in Canada, they liked my photo enough to be a part of it."

The photo was taken during an astronomy trip with his father, Bill, last summer at Sprucewoods Provincial Park.

SVJETLANA MLINAREVIC/METRO WINNIPEG

▶ Evan Krosney

Evan wrote a poem to go with his submission:

The nature that lies above us,
The mysteries it can retain.
From earth, we gaze
to the heavens,
To the environment
we must retain.

Originally, the trees were meant to be silhouettes, but a driver draped red cellophane over his beaming headlights, which resulted in red pines, Krosney explained.

"It came out with a nice result," he said.

Evan has been studying photography for about a year and a half and has had his images published in a calendar and broadcast on TV.

The artists will have their work exhibited this winter at the Dows Gallery on the Rideau Canal Skateway in Ottawa. The first-place winners will receive photography equipment valued at $1,800; second and third prizes are valued at $1,100.

Want to see more great photos? Check out the winners of Metro's national photo contest {page 12}

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1 news

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Italy's union leaders say they're going ahead with a call for a general strike to protest pension reform. More at metronews.ca/news

Ribbon cut at youth centre

Centre will have drop-in, counselling and job-training facilities

SEAN LEDWICH
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

Youth will soon have access to a gleaming new recreation centre in downtown Winnipeg.

On Friday, a ribbon was cut to signify completion of Youth for Christ's Centre for Youth Excellence — a $13.6-million, 53,000-square-foot facility at Main Street and Higgins Avenue.

"As far as I'm concerned this could be one of the best recreational facilities in the country," said Mayor Sam Katz, one of several politicians and dignitaries on hand.

Katz was credited by Public Safety Minister Vic Toews as being instrumental in the project's success.

"I don't think that we'd see this building here today if it wasn't for his push and his commitment," Toews said.

Amenities at the centre, which will open Jan. 7 to youth aged 12 to 18, include an indoor skateboard park, 50-foot climbing wall, dance studios, regulation-sized gym, theatre, pool tables and a lounge/café.

Dozens of youth, trying out the centre for the first time, were climbing and skating noisily as speeches went on.

Austin Thomas, 18, said the skateboard park is "insane. This place is, like, ground-breaking on so many levels. It's incredible."

"At the end of the day, this is not about a building," said YFC board chairman Robert Reimer.

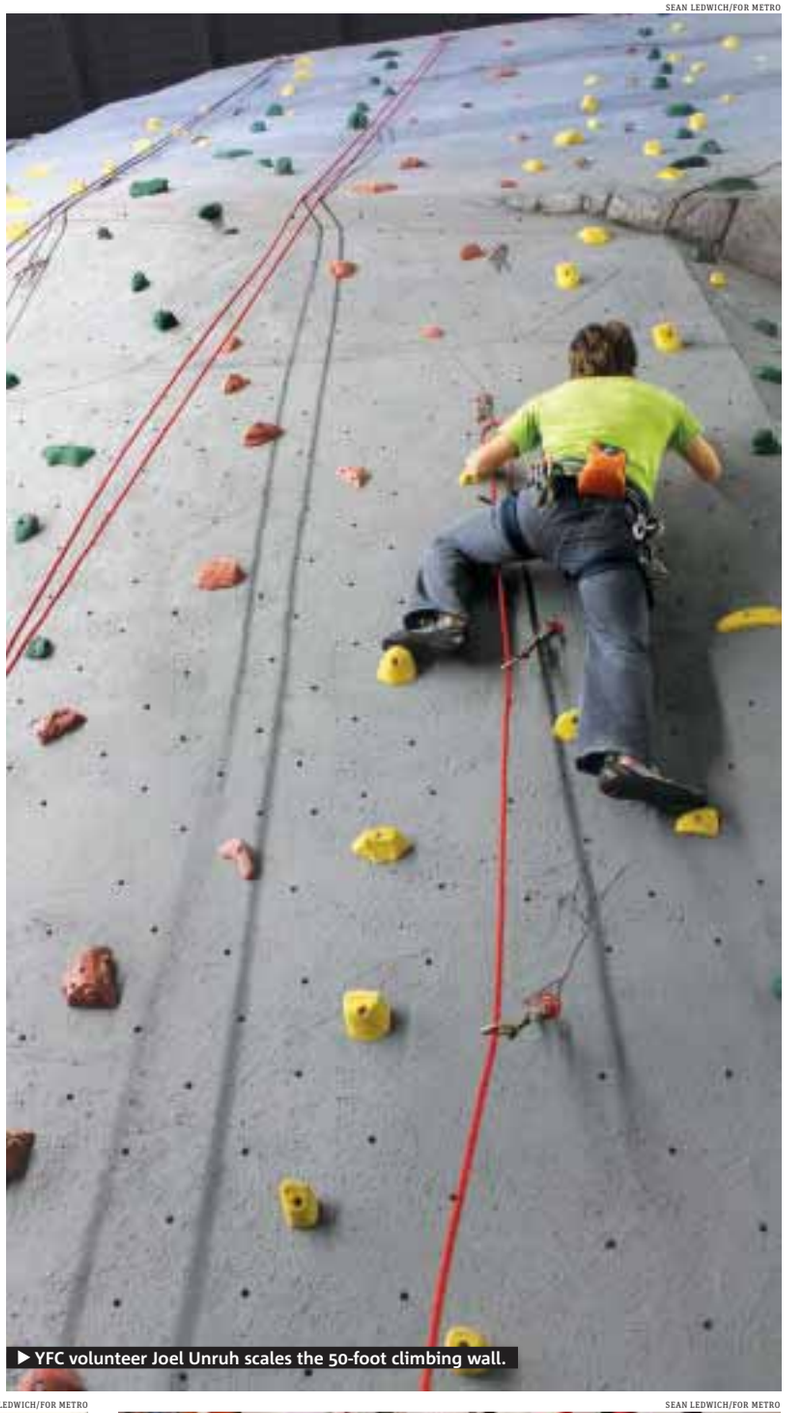
"This is about giving hope, purpose, self-worth, values and the opportunity to transform youth into what their potential might be."

"This is absolutely spectacular. There comes a time, as an elected official, (when) you've got to stand tall, you've got to take criticism, you've got to take threats and you've got to do what's right. And, baby, this was right."
MAYOR SAM KATZ

Concerns

- **Proselytizing.** Even before a shovel hit dirt last year, critics of the new YFC centre expressed concern it will be used to proselytize Christianity to youth.
- **'Bible study.'** YFC executive director John Courtney said faith will be broached "very respectfully.... We would give them the opportunity — invite them, for instance, to a Bible study. If they choose to go (it would be) with their parents' permission."
- **'Faith journey.'** "It's a part of what we believe in," Courtney said. "If a young person does embrace a faith journey, that plays a very critical role in terms of bringing added value to their life."
- **'Play in our gym.'** "But if they don't want to participate in that, they can still climb our walls, skate in our skate park, play in our gym."

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO



▶ YFC volunteer Joel Unruh scales the 50-foot climbing wall.

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ From left, YFC executive director John Courtney, Minister Vic Toews, YFC board chairman Robert Reimer and Mayor Sam Katz cut the ribbon.

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ The "insane" bowl is the only indoor skate bowl in Canada.

Just five tents left at Occupy camp

Activists spent Saturday removing piles of garbage and paring down camp at Memorial Park

SEAN LEDWICH
WINNIPEG@METRONEWS.CA

A natural resource officer showed up at Occupy Winnipeg yesterday and gave a passing grade to all five tents remaining, including a wooden yurt.

On Thursday, the province placed 72-hour removal notices on 13 tents they deemed to be vacant, and asked occupiers to get rid of garbage at the Memorial Park camp.

The notices warned of a re-inspection yesterday at 10 a.m.

At about noon, eight occupiers greeted a lone officer there for the re-inspection.

"He came by and we got a very positive review," occupier Ken Harasym said.

"He was concerned mainly with safety and the clearance of the empty tents. He was very impressed, from his reaction, that we cleaned up well and that we're looking after each other."

The officer confirmed all the tents were occupied, Harasym said.

Terry Weaymouth, whose military-style tent had received a removal notice, pointed out that the notices had check boxes related to eviction and trespassing that were unmarked.

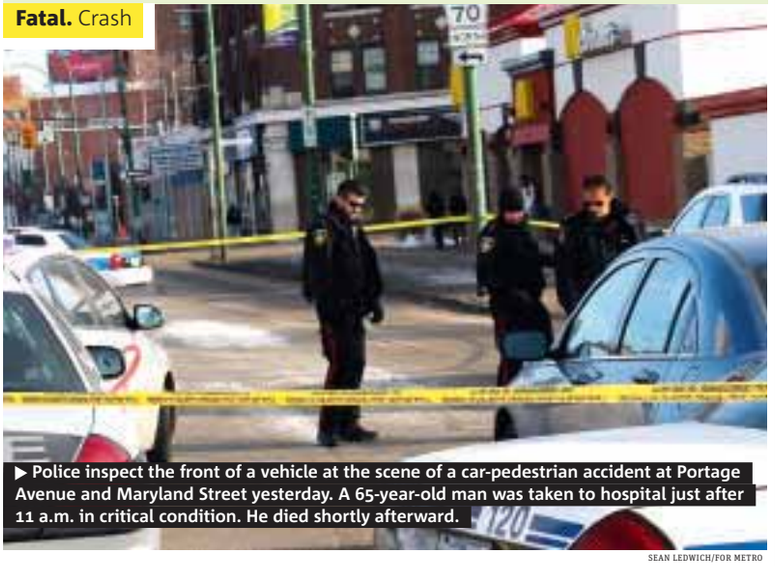
"All it said was, 'To be removed, inspection on Sunday at 10.' That's all it said. I knew it wasn't a big deal.

"They got a job to do, and it was in disarray in the past week. It looked like a freakin' mess down here. I'm just glad everyone was able to come yesterday to clean."

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

▶ Occupier Ken Harasym walks with a natural resource Officer inspecting the Occupy Winnipeg camp yesterday.

Fatal. Crash



▶ Police inspect the front of a vehicle at the scene of a car-pedestrian accident at Portage Avenue and Maryland Street yesterday. A 65-year-old man was taken to hospital just after 11 a.m. in critical condition. He died shortly afterward.

SEAN LEDWICH/FOR METRO

Police investigate deadly accident

News in brief

Dust-up turns into melee

FREE-FOR-ALL. Police responded to an altercation on the 200 block of Queen Street Saturday night after reports of a break-and-enter and stabbing. Officers found a 16-year-old male with stab wounds to his upper body that occurred during a fight with a 37-year-old woman and two female youth. The male was visiting a female resident of the home.

The suspects fled and tried to board a bus on Portage Avenue, but were denied entry. All three were arrested, but only the woman faces charges, including two counts of mischief under $5,000 due to damages incurred at the house and to the city bus. METRO

Shotgun used in break-in

SUSPECTS SOUGHT. Police are looking for two men who forced their way into a home on the 300 block of Alfred Avenue after one of the residents, an 18-year old male, answered the door.

Another male resident, 43, tried to help the teen when one of the suspects produced a shotgun and fired a shot. The residents were able to take the firearm away from the intruders, who fled the scene.

Police have recovered the shotgun, though the motive for the home invasion is unclear because nothing was stolen and no injuries were reported.

Police are asking anyone with information to call investigators at 986-6219 or Crime Stoppers at 786-8477.

SVJETLANA MINAREVIC

Kids escape house fire

TORONTO STREET BLAZE. Winnipeg firefighters responded to a kitchen fire at 4 p.m. on Saturday at the 300 block of Toronto Street. Five children in the house at the time, aged two, eight, 10, 12, and 14, escaped without injury. Damages are estimated at $250,000. No other homes were affected.

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Tories take to Twitter

Staffers will respond to questions submitted in English and French at Treasury Board's town hall Clement to provide answers

NDP MP riled

- **While the Opposition** commended the idea of the consultations, NDP MP Charlie Angus scoffed at the idea that it represents a commitment to open government.
- **Angus was particularly riled** that it is Clement heading up the initiative, given the NDP's assertion that Clement has misled Canadians on the handling of funds allocated for the G8/G20 summits.
- **"Because he goes on Twitter** and uses words like crowdsourcing, people are going to be fooled," Angus said.
- **"Open and accountable** government is knowing how decisions are made."

The Conservatives are finally putting the "social" into their use of social media.

Treasury Board President Tony Clement will host the government's inaugural Twitter town hall this Thursday, taking questions for 90 minutes on the subject of developing an open government strategy for Canada.

While many MPs, as well as government departments and agencies, use social media tools like Facebook, Twitter and YouTube, they've all faced criticism for only using them as ways to push out information rather that interact in real-time with citizens.

That Clement is hosting the first live social media event isn't an accident.

His nickname in government circles is the "Minister for Twitter." He has over 19,000 followers and has used social media to make pronouncements of government policy as well as to speak directly to Opposition MPs, the media and Canadians, sometimes much to the chagrin of the prime minister's office.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

SEAN KILPATRICK/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ Treasury Board President Tony Clement reads from an iPad as he responds to a question during a question period in the House of Commons on Oct. 27.

Social media

RISKY MOVE FOR CLEMENT?

Digital public affairs strategist Mark Blevis said Tony Clement is taking a risk with holding the formal Twitter event.

There will be inevitable criticism of which questions are and aren't answered and there's the possibility that many won't be on topic.

But Blevis cautioned against undue criticism, noting the government has to be given the chance to make mistakes in figuring out how to use social media. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Ottawa to enforce helmets for kids on ice

A new rule will force kids and novice skaters to strap on helmets before venturing out on the ice at Ottawa's indoor rinks.

Mayor Jim Watson was expected to announce the new policy yesterday.

Currently, only people in wheelchairs or strollers are required to wear helmets.

But a city report showed boys between 10 and 14 years old account for the most skating-related hospital visits.

Coun. Maria McRae says the rule could be amended at a later date to include a broader age group.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

10

The new rule takes effect Jan. 1 and applies to children under 10 years old as well as weak or beginner skaters.

Portugal. Parade

▶ Performers dressed as Santa Claus participate in the annual Santa Claus parade in Porto, Portugal, yesterday.

PAULO DUARTE/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Santa record-breaking attempt

Thousands staged a parade in an attempt to break the Guinness World Record for most people dressed as Santa Claus.

Canadian held in Gadhafi plot ill in jail: Lawyer

A Canadian woman detained by Mexican authorities in connection with an alleged plot involving a son of former Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi is devastated by her ordeal, says one of her lawyers.

Paul Copeland hasn't actually been able to speak with Cynthia Vanier, but has been in touch with family members and her Mexican lawyer, who have had contact.

"She's very upset and she's actually having some health difficulties in the jail," said Copeland.

Mexican authorities have also seized a condo near Puerto Vallarta that Vanier and her husband owned, something that has added to her anxiety, said Copeland, a well-known Canadian human-rights lawyer.

Vanier, who runs a business based in Mount Forest, Ont., that specializes in mediating disputes, is accused by Mexican authorities of leading a plot to illegally smuggle al-Saadi Gadhafi into Mexico.

Vanier denies the allegation and never had any contact with Gadhafi, Copeland said.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Accusation

- **Last week Mexico's** interior minister accused Cynthia Vanier of being the leader of a plot.
- **Alejandro Poire said the plan** to bring Gadhafi to Mexico allegedly involved Vanier, two Mexicans and a Danish suspect, all of whom have been detained.
- **Gadhafi denied last week** he was trying to enter Mexico. He fled Libya earlier this year after the fall of his father's regime and was given refugee status in Niger.

DMITRY LOVETSKY/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Russian nationalists shout while holding old Russian imperial flags during their rally yesterday in St. Petersburg. Russian nationalists are demanding a bigger say for ethnic Russians in the country's politics.

Medvedev promises election-fraud probe

- Russian president makes announcement on Facebook
- Tens of thousands turn out for protests on Saturday

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev announced on his Facebook page yesterday that he has ordered a probe into the allegations of electoral fraud during the country's Dec. 4 parliamentary vote.

Many Facebook users asked Medvedev whether he really disagrees with the protest's main slogan, "We're for fair elections." Some wrote that Medvedev's message made them even more determined to take part in the next planned rally against electoral fraud — on Dec. 24.

Tens of thousands of Russians rallied in Moscow and other cities on Saturday in the largest anti-government protest in the nation's post-Soviet history to protest alleged fraud in the parliamentary election and to demand the departure of Prime Minister Vladimir Putin.

2,200

Medvedev's post generated over 2,200 mostly angry comments within an hour. "Shame!" and "We don't believe you!" were the most common.

Medvedev yesterday broke two days of silence by posting a comment on his Facebook page.

"I disagree with the slogans as well as with the speeches that were made at the rallies," he said, but added that he gave instruction for a check of the reports of fraud. He did not mention who would carry out the probe.

Unlike Putin, the tech-savvy Medvedev, Russia's president since 2008, has enjoyed some support among an educated urban elite. But an announcement in September that he will step aside to let his mentor Putin run for a third term as president has angered many Medvedev supporters. **THE ASSOCIATED PRESS**

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Private sector to help keep eye on seas

Special forces want help in early warning of possible terror threats

Canada's special forces are turning to the private sector for help in early warning of possible terror threats coming from the sea.

The ultra-secret organization is tapping into an existing fisheries-surveillance contract with Provincial Airlines Ltd., a subsidiary of Provincial Aerospace Ltd. of St. John's to monitor the movements of vessels of interest off the country's coastline.

A briefing note, prepared for the former commander of the elite forces, says there are lots of government aircraft, including military and RCMP helicopters for land-based emergencies, but "options are significantly reduced when it comes to maritime threats.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Project Neptune

The special forces have also embarked on a more sophisticated, little-known $4.5-million program known as Project Neptune.

The plan is to take commercially available technology and, with the help defence researchers, roll it into one easy-to-use package for the special forces.

India. Celebration

▶ An Indian army soldier jumps over 20 of his team members as he performs during celebrations ahead of Victory Day in Kolkata (formerly Calcutta) yesterday.

BIKAS DAS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Marking a military victory

The day that will be celebrated on Dec. 16 marks the birth of Bangladesh. Victory Day is a national holiday in Bangladesh to commemorate the surrender of Pakistani forces to allied Indian and Bangladeshi forces in the Bangladesh Liberation War in 1971. In India, the day is primarily of military significance.

Ottawa to send 22 homes to Attawapiskat

ADRIAN WYLD/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A resident walks down the long hallway of a dorm-style trailer offering temporary shelter to those without homes in Attawapiskat, Ont., on Nov. 29.

The federal government has agreed to a demand from Attawapiskat for 22 modular homes to bring some relief to the isolated native community that has become a symbol of the brutal plight facing many of Canada's first peoples.

Aboriginal Affairs Minister John Duncan yesterday said that Ottawa has purchased an additional seven homes on top of the 15 previously announced, bringing the cost of the pre-fabricated structures to $1.8 million

He added that Chief Theresa Spence also agreed to renovations to the community's healing centre to temporarily house vulnerable residents until the homes arrive.

An official with the minister's office said they hoped winter roads would quickly freeze so that the shipment of the pre-assembled homes can start sometime in January.

In a statement released yesterday morning, Duncan said wood stoves, composting toilets, plastic sheeting and other supplies were flown into the isolated Northern Ontario community Saturday.

"Our government is working to ensure the people of Attawapiskat have access to safe and warm shelter for the coming months," he said.

Spence could not be reached for comment, but NDP critic Charlie Angus, whose riding includes the native community on the coast of James Bay, said the critical issue is who will wind up footing the bill.

"If the government is covering the cost, then the community can start dealing with the other massive infrastructure problems, but if the community ends up paying for it through the third-party manager, then they will not be any further ahead," he said.

Angus said he is hopeful that government's most recent concession can be the beginning of bringing relief to the impoverished community of about 1,800.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

News in brief

Paille to lead Bloc Quebecois

MONTREAL Former MP and provincial cabinet minister Daniel Paille is the new leader of the Bloc Quebecois.

Paille, who lost his seat in the last election, beat out current MPs Maria Mourani and Jean-Francois Fortin.

Paille faces the daunting job of trying to bring back the party that was all but decimated in a disastrous showing in last May's election.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Wanted U.S. man arrested

MONTREAL. Montreal police arrested a 51-year-old American man yesterday who the FBI calls armed and dangerous.

James Whittlesey was wanted in connection with a series of crimes, including robbing a bank in Virginia last October and shooting at police who responded to the robbery. No officers were injured in the incident.

Whittlesey was also sought in connection with four armed robberies in Pennsylvania and Delaware.

He was arrested on a downtown Montreal street corner early yesterday morning.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

Earthquake rocks Mexico

MEXICO CITY. A magnitude-6.5 earthquake struck in Mexico's western Guerrero state, shaking buildings and causing panic in the nation's capital and the Pacific resort of Acapulco. Officials said at least three people died, but there were no reports of widespread damage.

The U.S. Geological Service initially estimated the quake at magnitude at 6.8, but downgraded it to 6.7 and then 6.5. A quake of that magnitude is capable of causing severe damage.

Mexico's Interior Department said the quake was felt in parts of nine states.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Last battle of Red River Rebellion to take place

More than 140 years after the guns were put away, the last battle in the rebellion that brought Manitoba into Confederation is about to be fought.

Lawyers are to argue in front of the Supreme Court tomorrow that the federal government never lived up to the 1870 deal that settled the Red River Rebellion, fought by Metis struggling to hold on to their land in the face of growing white settlement.

"It's important for us to get right with our history," said Tom Berger, the legendary aboriginal-rights lawyer who will represent the Manitoba Metis Federation. THE CANADIAN PRESS

"We have to remember our history and we have to remember that the Metis didn't go away. They're still here."

TOM BERGER, ABORIGINAL-RIGHTS LAWYER

Protests across Yemen call for Saleh to face trial

Hundreds of thousands of Yemenis are demonstrating to demand President Ali Abdullah Saleh face trial for his regime's deadly crackdown on months of protests.

Yesterday's rallies took place in the capital, Sanaa, and other cities across the country.

After months of pressure, Saleh signed a deal last month to step down as president in exchange for immunity from prosecution.

New presidential elections are set for Feb. 21.

The deal has failed to end the protests, which began last February with calls for his ouster.

Protesters also rejected a unity government formed over the weekend that includes some ministers from Saleh's administration.

In part of the capital where armed tribesmen have battled Saleh's forces, five explosions were heard early Sunday.

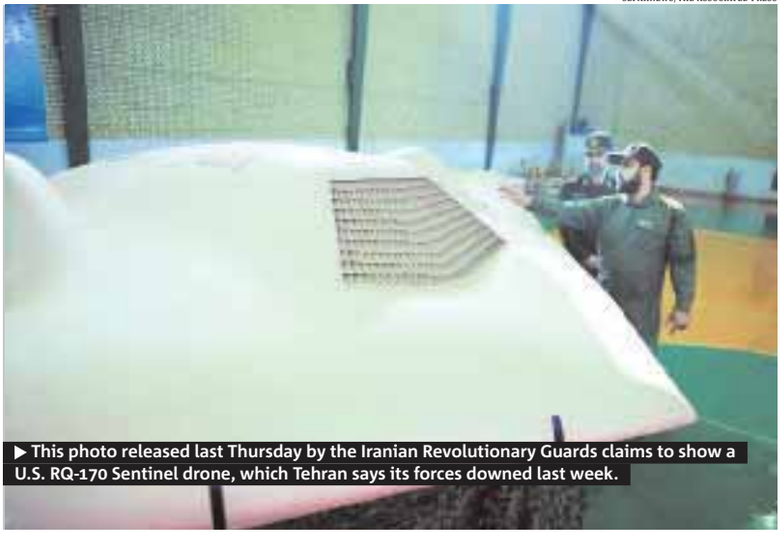
A medic said two people were injured.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Iran says it will not return U.S. surveillance drone

U.S. officials contend their intelligence indicates that the RQ-170 simply malfunctioned

SEPAHNEWS/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS



▶ This photo released last Thursday by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards claims to show a U.S. RQ-170 Sentinel drone, which Tehran says its forces downed last week.

Iran will not return a U.S. surveillance drone captured by its armed forces, a senior commander of the country's elite Revolutionary Guard said yesterday.

Gen. Hossein Salami, deputy head of the Guard, said in remarks broadcast on state television that the violation of Iran's airspace by the U.S. drone was a "hostile act" and warned of a "bigger" response.

"No one returns the symbol of aggression to the party that sought secret and vital intelligence related to the national security of a country."
IRAN'S GEN. HOSSEIN SALAMI

He did not elaborate on what Tehran might do.

Iranian television broadcast video Thursday of Iranian military officials inspecting what it identified as the RQ-170 Sentinel drone.

Iranian state media have said the unmanned spy aircraft was detected over the eastern town of Kashmar, some 225 kilometres from the border with Afghanistan.

U.S. officials have acknowledged losing the drone.

Salami called its capture a victory for Iran and a defeat for the U.S. in a complicated intelligence and technological battle.

"Iran is among the few countries that possesses the most modern technology in the field of pilotless drones.

"The technology gap between Iran and the U.S. is not much," he said.

Officers in the Guard, Iran's most powerful military force, had previously claimed that the country's armed forces brought down the surveillance aircraft with an electronic ambush, causing minimum damage to the drone.

But Salami refused to provide more details of Iran's claim to have captured the CIA-operated aircraft.

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GOP PRIMARIES

Romney treatment of dog goes unpunished

It's not come up in any of the Republican presidential debates as he struggles to keep his campaign on course. He isn't faced with questions about the incident on the campaign trail. Animal-rights activists haven't been heckling him in Iowa.

But it's a true story with a Canadian angle: Mitt Romney once made the 12-hour drive from Boston to Grand Bend, Ont., with the family dog strapped to the roof of his car.

New York Times columnist Gail Collins has refused to let the largely forgotten story die, mentioning the incident as many as two dozen times since Romney entered the Republican race for president, both in 2007 and in 2011. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Arab League flays Gingrich comments

A senior Arab League official yesterday condemned a statement by Republican presidential hopeful Newt Gingrich claiming Palestinians are an "invented" people, calling it racist and a cheap stunt to get votes.

However Israeli cabinet minister Uzi Landau said Gingrich was "right." He claimed the Palestinians do not have their own language or culture, and are instead part of the broader Arab world.

Gingrich also called Palestinians "terrorists." The comments struck at the heart of Palestinian sensitivities. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Boy escapes captors

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ In this photo taken on Saturday, Kevin Lunsmann, a kidnapped American teenage boy, talks to Filipino soldiers in Zamboanga city, southern Philippines, following his escape from suspected al-Qaida-linked militants.

Teenager to be reunited with family after five-month abduction

A kidnapped American teenage boy escaped from suspected al-Qaida-linked militants and wandered without shoes for two days in a southern Philippine jungle before villagers found him, ending his five-month captivity, officials said yesterday.

Kevin Lunsmann, 14, told his four armed captors that he would take a bath in a stream and then made a dash for freedom Friday in Basilan province, police Senior Supt. Edwin de Ocampo said. He followed a river down a mountain until villagers found him late the next day, de Ocampo said.

Exhausted, hungry and still stunned, the boy initially fled from the villagers, de Ocampo said.

Timeline

- **The boy, his mother** and a cousin were snatched July 12 on an island near Zamboanga City when they were vacationing.
- **The mother was freed** two months ago.
- **The cousin escaped** from the captors last month when Filipino army forces managed to get near an Abu Sayyaf camp.

"He was in fear so there was a bit of a chase before the villagers convinced him that they were friends," de Ocampo told The Associated Press. He said the boy was fine, but was exhausted and had bruises on his arms and feet. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

BIM CLASS ACTION

DID YOU PURCHASE A PERPETUAL MOTION PRODUCT FROM OR THROUGH BUSINESS IN MOTION INTERNATIONAL CORPORATION? IF SO, PLEASE READ THIS CAREFULLY AS IT MAY AFFECT YOUR RIGHTS.

WHAT IS THIS CASE ABOUT?

A class action lawsuit has been certified in the Federal Court of Canada claiming that Business in Motion International Corporation and Alex Kippax ("BIM") ran an illegal pyramid scheme and an illegal multi-level marketing scheme. A copy of the Statement of Claim and Order certifying the action as a class proceeding can be found at www.BIMclassaction.com.

HOW WILL THE LAWSUIT PROCEED?

A trial will be held to determine the common issues in the action. If these issues are determine in favor of the class members, there might still need to be individual hearings to determine the entitlement of each class member to a refund.

WHAT DO I HAVE TO DO TO PARTICIPATE?

There is nothing you have to do right now. Unless you opt out, you will be bound by the result of the common issues trial. However, in order to make sure you are notified of any important developments in the action, we recommend you register on our website at www.BIMclassaction.com.

WHAT IF I DO NOT WANT TO PARTICIPATE IN THIS LAWSUIT?

If you do not want to be part of the class action, you must complete the online form at www.BIMclassaction.com. If you do not have access to the internet, please contact Ulla Herlev at Branch MacMaster LLP. You must complete the online form by no later than January 18, 2012.

DO I NEED TO PAY ANYTHING?

You will only need to pay legal fees if the action is successful in obtaining you a refund of some of the monies you paid. Those legal fees will be paid directly from the refund you receive. You will not need to pay any legal fees out of your own pocket.

Any fee paid to the lawyers must be approved by the Court as being fair and reasonable. The fee agreement entered into by the representative plaintiff provides for the lawyers to be paid up to 1/3 of any amounts recovered or any benefit obtained from the class action. If and when this occurs, the lawyers will apply to Court for approval of that percentage or some lesser amount.

If the class action is unsuccessful at the common issues trial, you will not pay any legal fees.

WHO ARE THE LAWYERS FOR THE CLASS?

The lawyers for the class are:

BRANCH MACMASTER LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1410 – 777 Hornby Street
Vancouver, BC V6Z 1S4

HORDO BENNETT MOUNTEER LLP
Barristers and Solicitors
1400 – 128 West Pender St.
Vancouver, BC V6B 1R8

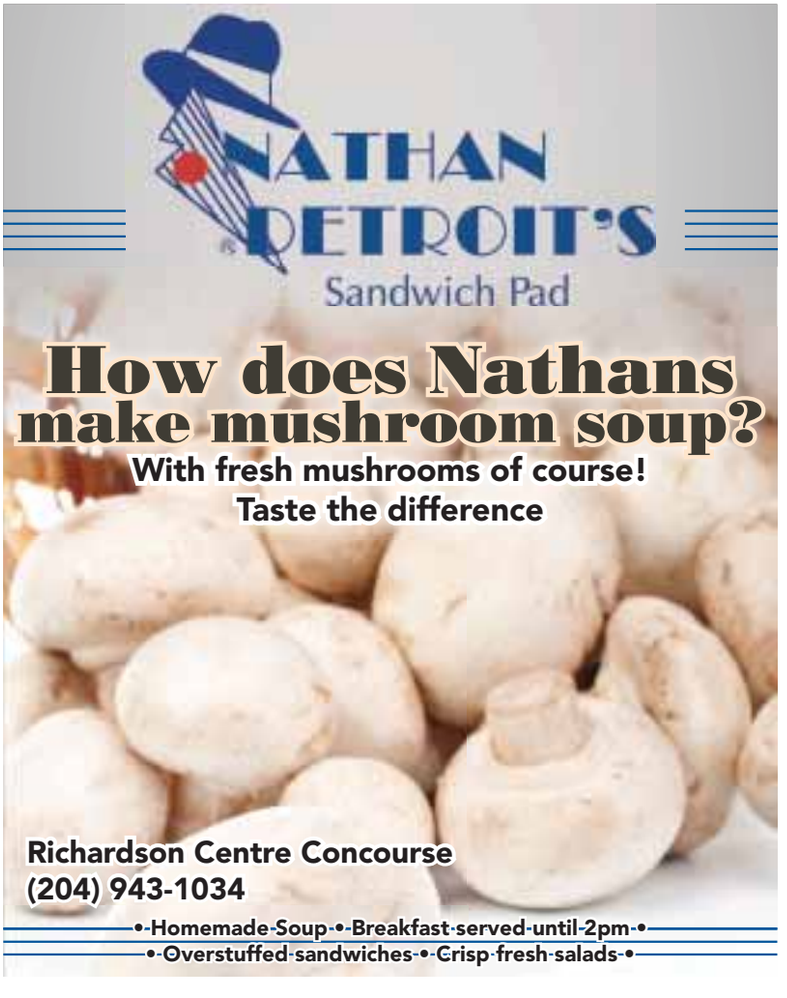
Mark Cuzzetto (the representative plaintiff) has been appointed by the Court to instruct the lawyers for the common issues stage. The lawyers must act in the interest of all class members.

HOW DO I FIND OUT ABOUT DEVELOPMENTS?

For updates or questions please check our website at www.BIMclassaction.com. Alternatively, you can contact Ulla Herlev of Branch MacMaster LLP:

Ulla Herlev, Paralegal
Email: uherlev@branmac.com
Tel: (604) 654-2964
Fax: (604) 684-3429

This notice has been authorized by the Federal Court of Canada.



Suncor pulls out of Syria

- Unknown when the oil giant will resume operations in the country
- Calgary-based company downplays impact of decision on revenues

JEFF MCINTOSH/THE CANADIAN PRESS

▶ A pedestrian is reflected in a Suncor Energy sign in Calgary.

Canadian oil giant Suncor Energy Inc. says it is pulling out of Syria in order to comply with new international sanctions aimed at further isolating the regime of President Bashar Assad.

"The current situation in Syria is very concerning, and our thoughts are with the Syrian people as we hope for a return to peace as soon as possible," Suncor CEO Rick George said in a statement.

Pressure has been mounting on Suncor to pull out of the country since the sanctions took effect earlier this month.

The Calgary-based company had previously said it would continue its operations in Syria despite earlier international sanctions targeting the country's oil and gas exports, saying the natural gas it produced jointly with the state-owned General Petroleum Corp., was for domestic consumption only.

But after a careful review of the latest economic sanctions announced by the European Union on Dec. 2, the company concluded they applied to Suncor, said company spokeswoman Kelli Stevens.

Suncor says it is working through a plan to safely withdraw its foreign staff and determine how it can best support Syrian employees. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Market moment

PRICES AS OF 5 P.M. FRIDAY

TSX	Dollar
+ 82.95 (12,034.75)	+ $0.4¢ ($98.19¢ US)
Oil	**Natural gas**
+ $1.07 US ($99.41 US)	$3.32 US (- 14¢ US)
	Gold
	$1,716.80 US (+ 2.60 US)

Egyptian PM decries weak economy

NASSER NASSER/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ An Egyptian army officer stands guard near a poster mocking the ruling military council in Cairo yesterday.

Egypt's new interim prime minister broke into tears in front of journalists yesterday as he spoke about the state of the country's economy, saying it was "worse than anyone imagines."

Egypt's transition since Hosni Mubarak's fall has been rocky, with protests against the military council, increased crime and the battering of the tourism industry that was once a pillar of the economy.

Kamal el-Ganzouri, the third temporary prime minister since Mubarak's ouster in February, said his priorities were the restoration of security and economic progress.

At one point in his news conference, el-Ganzouri teared up as he recalled seeing "an Egyptian man on TV saying, 'I want security, not bread.' "

He said austerity measures were needed to start reducing the deficit but that no new taxes will be imposed.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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CREDIT AMNESTY 2011
Guaranteed Credit Approvals No Matter what your Credit Score or History

WINNIPEG - MANITOBA
The downturn in the economy has affected most people and their ability to get a car and automotive credit. Credit agencies have become very critical with credit scores and many lenders have significantly changed the criteria for someone to qualify for an auto loan. Many car shoppers today are being turned down because of their credit history. Credit Amnesty 2011 has signed an agreement with a CREDIT TO ANYONE REGARDLESS OF CREDIT SCORE. Every and any past credit problem will be accepted and approved regardless of bankruptcy, divorce, tax liens, judgements, vehicle repossessions and charge offs.

Bank Authorized Processors On Site for Instant Approvals
The management and finance staff of Credit Amnesty 2011 were flown to Toronto and trained to be lending representatives for a national leader who has been lending to credit challenged consumers in an effort to give consumers the opportunity to re-establish their credit one payment at a time. Credit Amnesty 2011 will now deliver credit approvals to every consumer they enter into the patented Credit Approval Processing System within 60 seconds. Doug MacIver, General Manager at Credit Amnesty 2011 proudly says, "we provide opportunity where others can't."

Life Changing Program
Without our product, consumers are often unable to purchase a vehicle or they purchase an unreliable one and are not provided the opportunity to improve their credit standing. As we report to all major financial national credit reporting agencies, a significant number of our customers improve their lives by improving their credit score and move on to more traditional sources of financing. We have the late model vehicles people want and the ones that will qualify for this type of funding. The only thing that will affect your ability not to be approved is no down payment. And with that being said we are not here to put someone in a car that does not match their ability to pay, we want this to be a successful process that will allow those with credit problems to rebuild their lives. I know they will benefit from this program and they will always come back to us to buy a car.

From what we were told in Toronto, business starts coming in from referrals, from our own customers who find out this program is for real. They usually tell all their family and friends about it. "This is a once in a lifetime opportunity for someone to come in to us and drive home a nice car and rebuild their credit," adds Doug. Our staff has even told their families and friends to come down and we've notified some local companies and their employees to come down as well to take advantage of these great opportunities to rebuild your credit.

EVERYONE APPROVED!
With our patented finance program, purchasing your vehicle is hassle free. Most people have credit issues! At Ride Time... "THAT'S WATER UNDER THE BRIDGE!" No co-signer required.

CAR proof HISTORY REPORTS are available on every vehicle. You can drive home with confidence that you know what you are buying. If I were in the market for a quality pre-owned certified vehicle, I would definitely come down early for the best selection."

Your Trade is Your Down Payment
Wholesale representatives will be on hand to give anyone top dollar for their trade for down payment funds. Wholesalers have been authorized to offer very liberal trade-in allowances so that each person who needs a down payment has one. This is a perfect opportunity to trade in and trade up and rebuild your credit. Trades can be made to lower your monthly payments. Your trade will be your down payment. In most cases you can just sign and drive with a trade. Just bring your vehicle registration and payment book, and Credit Amnesty 2011 will make the deal happen for you.

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The Metro Global Photo Challenge is over The general public and our local judges have chosen the top Canadian finalists, who will now go on to compete against other international entries for a chance to win the global grand prize — a trip to any city where Metro is published

Snapping, sharing for top prize

Environment

Ghost House
by Mauricio Correa

MAURICIO CORREA

What was your inspiration?
This is an old and abandoned house near Quebec's Lac-Mégantic. This decaying house stands alone in the middle of a verdant landscape.

What were you trying to say with this picture?
I meant to capture the co-existence of decay and fertility. In nature, there is a cycle from birth to death. Here the landscape represents the eternal, the house, all that is transient. This old house epitomizes emptiness, solitude, decay. It is a ghostly testimony of better times, something that cries out for care and attention. The green landscape and the tree in full foliage symbolize the hope of life everlasting.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
Nothing lasts like an image of transient nature frozen in time by the photographer's lens. There's still time to rebuild this planet.

Environment

Froggy Froggy
by Laura Makaltses

LAURA MAKALTSES

What was your inspiration?
I caught this photograph when I was hiking with my friend. We were walking by a pond when we heard the sound of the frogs croaking. The sound was so tranquil. I wanted to see where it was coming from. My friend and I found the frog and I took this shot. I was truly inspired by the sounds of nature.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I am capturing the personality of the frog and its environment.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
I hope people will understand the beauty of frogs and all animals. Many species all over the world become endangered every day. I hope that. after seeing my photograph, people will realize that we need to help keep our world's biodiversity alive.

Imagination

Sharp Mind by Adhi Kusumawardana

ADHI KUSUMAWARDANA

What was your inspiration?
I was inspired by a good friend who is a successful photographer and also an art director. He is a smart, talented and witty artist — his ideas are brilliant — but, as a person, very humble and down-to-earth.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I was trying to show how success and prosperity will come to people who are sharp, virtuous and bold.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
I hope that people enjoy the image as much as I enjoyed taking it.

Imagination

Christmas Spirit at Niagara Falls
by Ling-fai Leung

LING-FAI LEUNG

What was your inspiration?
Photography is an amazing form of art to let people visualize the internal feeling of a subject from its surroundings. There is beauty around all of us. One needs to be able to visualize this and record it to photos.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I am always drawn to Niagara Fall's Evening Illumination, when different colours of light shine on the falls. This picture was taken at the balcony of Fallsview Casino Dec. 18, 2008. It was a quiet evening, snow could still be seen on the streets and rooftop and smoke coming from the chimney stack of the highrise building. I used slowest exposure to capture the water movement. It showed a very warm, romantic feeling of Christmas spirit.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
I hope from this picture we can sense the peace and harmony of Christmas and feel how lucky we are to share this feeling with friends and family.

Moments of my life

Business Shower
by Felix Renaud

FELIX RENAUD

What was your inspiration?
A friend came up with the idea of taking a picture of him wearing his old jacket. We asked ourselves: How can a businessman be out of context? In a shower, of course!

What were you trying to say with your picture?
It's a funny way to describe a guy's normal morning in 2011. Everything is so fast and mechanical.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
Whatever you do, there are only 24 hours in a day.

Relationships

Best Friend Four Leaf Hunters by Sarah Forbes

SARAH FORBES

What was your inspiration?
I was inspired by the relationship that my daughter and pet were developing.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
I was trying to capture the unspoken understanding between my daughter and pet. This photo captures the early stages of their relationship and the joy they both shared being outdoors.

What do you hope people will take away from your picture?
I am hoping people see the innocence of a young child and the love and protection our pet brings to our family.

METRO

Relationships

Silhouette Heart
by Emma Haidar

EMMA HAIDAR

What was your inspiration?
Taken on my birthday, my inspiration was to get a unique photo that shows love and the waterfront — two beautiful things in one, captured artistically.

What were you trying to say with your picture?
A silhouette is a perfect way to express something latently. The contrast makes the message stronger, in my opinion, and it showcases my husband and me, tells our love story.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
"I hope they appreciate the artistic elements, and are inspired to take photos that tell their story without being the only subject of the image.

Moments of my life

Splash
by Laura Makaltses

LAURA MAKALTSES

What was your inspiration?
It was the very last day of summer. The sun was setting and my friends and I were still enjoying our last moments by the lake. I wanted to capture the moment.

2. What were you trying to say with your picture?
Summer doesn't last forever and we have to live every moment ... to its full potential.

What do you hope people take away from your picture?
"I hope ... people will remember some of their own holiday and summer moments. I want my photo to bring a smile to their faces."

CITY SERVICES ARE NO BARGAIN

URBAN COMPASS

COLIN FAST
METRO WINNIPEG

Winnipeggers have a reputation for driving a hard bargain, but when it comes to the services we get from the city, a new poll suggests we may be getting a raw deal.

During the last two weeks of November, Forum Research Inc. asked residents of Canada's 30 largest cities for their opinion on various municipal services. While only 25 per cent of Canadians reported having a high level of satisfaction with city services, the feedback in Winnipeg was even worse. At just 11 per cent, we had the lowest grade in the country.

The results don't get any better when looking at individual services, as Winnipeg had bottom-of-the-barrel rankings for most major categories, including fire services, libraries, garbage and recycling, public health and social services.

"Despite this damning assessment, city council is poised to pass a new capital budget this month that actually reduces the amount of money it will spend on road repairs."

Not surprisingly, the biggest complaints came for road maintenance and repair, as only five per cent of Winnipeggers said they're very happy compared to 16 per cent of all Canadians. Despite this damning assessment, city council is poised to pass a new capital budget this month that actually reduces the amount of money it will spend on road repairs.

And rather than pursuing a "fix it first" approach to infrastructure renewal, council is charging ahead with plans to build new overpasses and widen existing roadways. How it hopes to maintain these new facilities in the future remains a mystery.

The same could be said for our recreation infrastructure. While all three levels of government have committed funds to building new recreational projects throughout the city, only 16 per cent of residents said they're very satisfied with the current condition of our community centres, and just 23 per cent are happy with parks services. This compares poorly to the national averages of 34 per cent and 39 per cent respectively.

And despite a police budget that's gone up by $49 million in the past five years, only 25 per cent of Winnipeggers feel very good about our police services, compared to 39 per cent of all Canadians. Of course, setting a new record for murders doesn't help with public opinion on this issue.

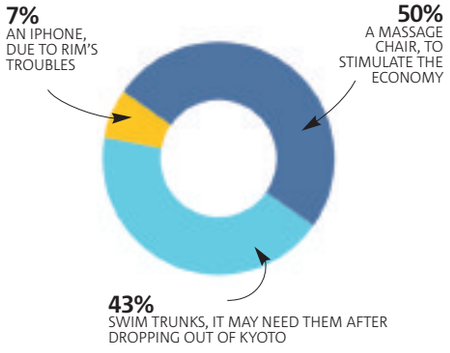
With such low satisfaction levels for such a broad range of services, it's little wonder that only 12 per cent of Winnipeggers said they were very satisfied with what they pay in property tax and municipal fees. Every Winnipegger understands the concept of value for money, and we're just not getting that from city hall these days.

Colin Fast is a corporate communicator who blogs about life in Winnipeg at policyfrog.com.

Metro Panel

Register at metropolitanpanel.ca and take the quick poll

What present would you give Canada for the holidays?

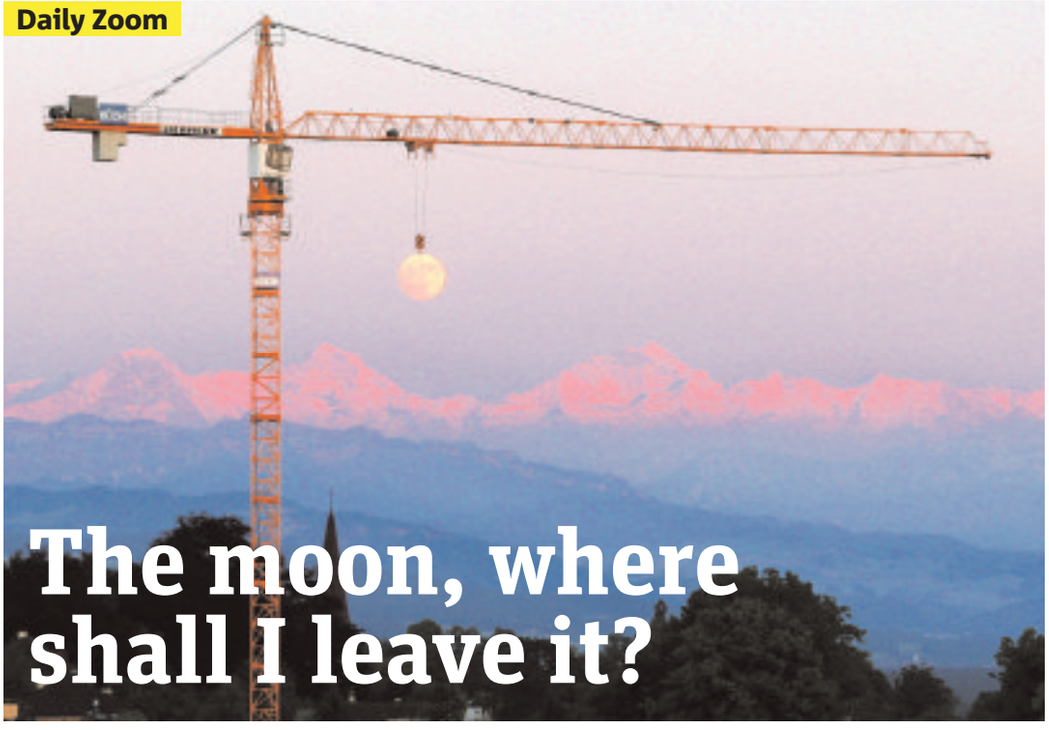

7%
AN IPHONE, DUE TO RIM'S TROUBLES
50%
A MASSAGE CHAIR, TO STIMULATE THE ECONOMY
43%
SWIM TRUNKS, IT MAY NEED THEM AFTER DROPPING OUT OF KYOTO

Local tweets

- **@Lulubelle_Gold:** Just saw the #humbug christmas lights, a true sign of #winnipeg christmas.
- **@ICEzzyG:** 6 more sleeps until Teemu Selanne returns to the MTS Centre to play the Winnipeg Jets.
- **@Smoars:** Went 4 a skate at the #sargentpark today, then came home n finished my home made beef stew n dumplings! Cant wait to eat! #winnipeg #yum
- **@singlespeedSW:** I only used one tank of gas since November 3rd until today! Moving downtown was a good move. #green #environment #winnipeg
- **@Dn_Nicholson:** Packing up for the big move to #Winnipeg. All those years of playing Tetris as a kid is finally paying off.
- **@sanfordonsports:** Just finished assembling snow blower. #snowlesswinter #Winnipeg
- **@Morgantraa:** That beautiful moment when you realize you get the shaw holiday fireplace channel and you turn it on when the hand is there
- **@bhops83:** RT @ICEzzyG: Hockey World: If you thought Jets fans have been loud so far, just wait until Teemu Selanne returns to Winnipeg next Saturday.

Daily Zoom

BRUNO GERBER/SOLENT NEWS



The moon, where shall I leave it?

Crane 'carries' moon in illusion

SWITZERLAND. They're good at banking, making cuckoo clocks and chocolates, and it looks like the Swiss are also handy at getting a hook onto the moon. In truth, this is just an optical illusion, an amazing example of forced-perspective photography. Bruno Gerber took this shot from his friend's roof terrace in Bern. METRO WORLD NEWS

"I waited seven minutes for the moon to rise and get 'hooked' onto the crane."
BRUNO GERBER, AMATEUR PHOTOGRAPHER

'Keep eyes open' for visual gag

EXPERT TIPS. The 37-year-old corporate lawyer from near Zurich offers advice on a mind-boggling image: "Keep your eyes open, think ahead (e.g., where the moon or sun will go, how a shadow moves) and don't sit idle. But I'm not a fan of overly set up, silly illusion shots with people." METRO WORLD NEWS

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Osborne House

A Safe Place for Women & Children

Winter Wish List

THE SOCIAL EFFECTS:
· 360,000 children are annually exposed to home violence.
· More than 50% of young offenders have been exposed to home violence
* 800,000 days of paid work are lost each year because of this; costs est. at $1.8 Billion

SO OFTEN, OUR COURAGEOUS WOMEN AND CHILDREN COME TO OUR DOORSTEP WITH NOTHING BUT THE CLOTHING ON THEIR BACK. THIS HAPPENS WHEN THE MOMENT ARISES FOR THEM TO ESCAPE THE VIOLENCE IN THEIR HOMES SAFELY OR THE OUTSTANDING WINNIPEG POLICE SERVICE HAS COME TO THEIR RESCUE AND THEY'VE BEEN WHISKED FROM THEIR HOME INTO A POLICE CAR. IN THE INTEREST OF PUBLIC HEALTH, WE CAN ONLY ACCEPT NEW UNUSED ITEMS.

EVERYDAY ESSENTIALS NEEDED FOR WOMEN AND THEIR CHILDREN WHILE AT OSBORNE HOUSE INC.

- All clothing items one would wear on a daily basis ie: sweatpants, undergarments, outergarments, socks, pajamas, housecoats, slippers, shoes, runners. Size large and up (including plus size).
- Deodorant, shampoo & conditioner, shower gel, soap, body lotion, powder, facial cleanser, tampons, pads, small hairdryer, hair brush/comb, Kleenex.
- Size 5 & 6 diapers, diaper cream, baby powder, baby wipes, baby shampoo & lotion, teething rings, soothers, baby bottles, baby monitors, snugglies, strollers, playpens.
- Non-perishable food items for our 24x7 kitchen including baby food and cereal.
- Bath towels, facecloths, twin & double bed sheet sets, blankets

NICE TO HAVE:

- Bus tickets for adults and children, fabric softener sheets, journals, diaries, pens.
- Sunglasses (you see, sometimes our clients want to go out and keep their black eyes out of site).
- Books, puzzles , dvd's (non-violent) for children (we strongly encourage literacy).
- Toys up to age 16 (non-violent), Lego, coloring books and craft kits & supplies.
- Gift cards from Tim Horton's, McDonalds and grocery stores

Osborne House Inc. is a registered charity (Charitable Tax No. 89916 4487 RR0001)

BY THE NUMBERS

Osborne House serves women and children across all cultures and backgrounds.

· 9000 phone calls a year
· 5000/yr use our shelter
· 35-40% minorities & 1500 per year new Canadians
· Hundreds of school children, 200 kids over 5, and teens fleeing abuse
· 1400 have abusive/ addictive lifestyles

NO CLIENT FEE EVER

PLEASED TO ACCEPT DONATIONS IN THE FORM OF CHEQUES, CASH, VISA OR MASTERCARD.

Osborne House Inc. P.O. Box 397, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6

Or phone April Kuz at 942.7373 x.229 or AKuz@Osbornehouseinc.ca for inquiries

OSBORNE HOUSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!

@OsborneHouseWPG **http://www.facebook.com/pages/Osborne-House-Inc/205825919485040**

THE CHALLENGE OF THE FUTURE

The significant role of Osborne House in the community is not well-known to Winnipeggers whose lives have not been touched by domestic violence. But the importance of the province's largest and longest serving women's shelter comes front and centre pretty quickly when a crisis touches on their families or friends, says CEO Barbara Judt.

That support is often only sought after years in an abusive relationship. "There is plenty of overwhelming evidence that shows us that children who grow up in abusive environments often repeat the same pattern in their lives. This violence is what they have grown up knowing — it becomes their norm."

"Prior to becoming involved with the shelter, I admit I used to think, 'If your partner hits you, leave.' Now, instead of passing judgment, I offer support and compassion to women and children needing our services. I have learned that it is not easy to leave your home and the life you know, regardless of how bad things are."

Judt's involvement with Osborne House began in 2004, when she was asked to join a newly formed Board of Directors to lend her business expertise and knowledge to the shelter.
In January of 2010, the Board of Directors appointed Judt as the CEO of Osborne House Inc. Within six months of being at the helm, Judt had covered the deficit. Though Osborne House Inc. is a registered charity (Charitable Tax No. 89916 4487 RR0001), the organization is run as a business.

"We have a business plan along with a long term strategy that we follow. As I told the Board when I first came here, running a year-end deficit on my watch is not an option — not going to happen. Every cost incurred by the agency was put under the microscope, recognizing needs are different than wants. Life is definitely different in the not-for-profit world. Every day brings something new. In the corporate world, there is more cash at your disposal, so we have become pros at learning to do more with less."

As the CEO, Judt wears many hats. Negotiating pricing with new vendors, being in the public eye, taking care of plumbing issues — it's all in a day's work. The best part of the job is meeting clients and their children.

"They all make my heart smile and I always take time to meet and speak with them. My office is very popular spot — it likely has something to do with the fact that I have the world's biggest candy bowl on my table! We work really hard to try and instill a sense of normalcy into the lives of our clients. We celebrate birthdays, all holidays, we go on field trips, have movie nights and we have Santa Claus making his annual appearance every Dec. 25.

"I also go out into the community and deliver presentations. I still encounter situations where our request to speak gets declined because people feel the subject is too unpleasant to talk about. To which I respond, 'Well of course it is. Getting pummelled and abused on every level is highly unpleasant. If we keep turning our heads away, nothing will ever change.' This tells me we still have a lot of work to do and I will keep doing it. Though the statistics have dropped, one women dying at the hand of her partner is too much, so we need to continue persevering on working past any obstacles."

In addition to emergency shelter services for women and children escaping domestic violence, Osborne House offers a variety of other support services for their clients. Referrals to the appropriate community resources, safety planning, assisting clients with their Protection Order Applications, advocacy, working with The Winnipeg Police Service, the RCMP and other out-of-province law enforcement groups are just a few of the many roles the staff take on. The OH Crisis Line is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. One-on-one and group counselling sessions are available for women and their children. Judt explains that kids also get educated within the facility.
"We partnered with the Winnipeg School Division #1 a few years ago, and have a tutoring program each morning for the children in shelter who are unable to attend their own school. The difference this has made for our kids is incredible. It takes a very special kind of teacher to work in our facility and Ms. Denise Smith, WSD Principal, has done a phenomenal job making sure the fit is right."

At the time this story was written, the Government of Manitoba announced a review of all shelters including the funding/operating models currently utilized. Judt welcomes this review as their current premises (owned by the province) are in dire need of an upgrade.

"Twenty-one years ago, our building was state of the art. It was beautiful. Times have changed," she says. "We need to do a better job of accommodating women and their children. The bed bug invasion has completely changed the landscape in how we do intakes. Our costs in relation to this issue have increased 100 per cent. Storage is a huge issue, and the hallways are being used to house belongings. Every inch of office space is used for donation storage. Osborne House is so very fortunate to have the support of Winnipeggers."

Judt is currently in discussions with a few local groups with the end goal of obtaining additional long-term sustainable funding for the agency.

"Though cash donations have dropped, we have many groups and individuals that have donated to us for years. It's become painfully aware to me that people in Winnipeg are experiencing donor fatigue," Judt says. "Charities are competing for donations. Donations of goods means that I don't need to purchase those items, which frees money up for something else."

STAFFING PROFILE

It is hard to imagine a more challenging intake environment than the desk at
Osborne House.

Many clients are victims of social circumstance, the targets of behaviours rooted in substance and alcohol abuse, and may themselves be addicted, and some are lacking in basic skill sets. "We can't expect the average person to know what to do," says Osborne House CEO Barb Judt.

"Mothers need help with their kids settling in, single women need private space, some clients don't know how to use a computer or complete government or court forms, or the women might be withdrawn because of their plight," Judt says. "The fastest-growing segment of women seeking shelter is under 30. Our staff has to listen to them and evaluate the functionality of the clients to work with them to map out things like protection plans."

There are 38 employed positions at OH, including 16 full-time positions, residential support workers, a children's counsellor, social workers, administration, nutrition and cleaning personnel.

For 21 years, the front line of the shelter has been staffed by Remy, or as she is known, "The Information Centre." As she has contact with all the different program
areas, Remy is called upon to keep track of the comings and goings of the clients and staff.

Ever since moving over from the Employment Services Unit at the Y in October 1990, she has been the friendly face seen by thousands of women and children in their most tumultuous hour.

"With the new intakes, you can feel their sadness, and stress and anger," she says. "Personally, it's kind of sad to see them with no belongings and badly injured. Why does this need to happen, I will think."

A calming presence dispensing hugs and joking around with toddlers and school-agers, the front desk is a hub of activity and discussion, and clients and fellow staff have confidence knowing that Remy is watching out for them with a true heart and a warm smile.

"During their stay here, being safe helps them get organized," she says. "Clients in the '90s weren't as willing to seek help. But now, when it's time to move on, I'd say 90 per cent of the women leave here happy they can start again. And they know we are always here to help."

Osborne House
A Safe Place for Women & Children

PLEASED TO ACCEPT DONATIONS IN THE FORM OF CHEQUES, CASH, VISA OR MASTERCARD.
Osborne House Inc. P.O. Box 397, Winnipeg, MB R3C 2H6
Or phone April Kuz at 942.7373 x.229 or AKuz@Osbornehouseinc.ca for inquiries

OSBORNE HOUSE ON SOCIAL MEDIA!
@OsborneHouseWPG **http://www.facebook.com/pages/Osborne-House-Inc/205825919485040**

2 scene

Hockey heaven

Never made it out to the Hockey Hall of Fame?
Skate through the history of hockey with this new book

Fuhr-ious: Grant Fuhr wore this late model form-fitting mask while playing with the Edmonton Oliers in the early 1980's before switching to a modern mask and cage setup.

The Last Goal He Ever Scored: Toronto's Bill Barilko used this puck to score an overtime Stanley Cup winner against Gerry McNeil and the Montreal Canadiens on April 21, 1951. The goal was Barilko's last, as he and Dr. Henry Hudson, a friend, died tragically in a plane crash on their way to a fishing trip four months after the goal. The bodies of Barilko and Hudson were found 11 years later, in 1962, the same year the Leafs would next win the Cup.

The Golden Goal: Sidney Crosby of Cole Harbour, N.S., scored 7:40 into overtime of the men's gold-medal final at the 2010 Vancouver Olympics with this puck. Canada defeated the U.S. 3-2, claiming Olympic gold for the second time since 2002. The game was the most-viewed hockey game in history, and Crosby's marker gave Team Canada the most gold medals by any nation in one Winter Olympic Games.

Gordie the Great: Gordie Howe wore this jersey toward the end of his career with the Detroit Red Wings, where he played from 1946-47 to 1970-71. Over that time in Detroit Howe amassed 786 goals and 1,023 assists for a remarkable 1,809 points.

From Russia With Love: Calgary Flames jersey worn by Sergei Priakin, the first Soviet to be given permission to play in the NHL, during the 1988-89 season.

Lord Stanley's Cup: The original Stanley Cup bowl, professionally engraved with the names of championship teams and amateurishly scrawled with the scratchings of championship-team members, including Fred W. Taylor (also known as "Cyclone") whose name can be seen scratched on the Cup under the "Ottawa 1904" entry. Taylor won the Cup with Ottawa in 1909 and with Vancouver in 1915.

Canada's First Gold: Winnipeg Falcons Team Canada sweater worn by Konrad Johannesson at the 1920 Summer Olympics in Antwerp, Belgium, which was the first Olympics to feature hockey. Canada won gold.

ALL PHOTOS BY MATTHEW MANOR AND COURTESY OF FIREFLY BOOKS. TEXT PROVIDED BY FIREFLY BOOKS.

Box office

The holiday spirit is eluding Hollywood. Overall domestic revenues are expected to come in below the dismal $81 million haul a week ago, which had been the low weekend so far this year. This looks like Hollywood's worst total in more than three years, going back to the weekend after Labour Day in 2008, when overall grosses finished below $70 million.

The star-filled romance New Year's Eve led this weekend with a weak $13.7 million debut. Jonah Hill's comedy The Sitter opened at No. 2 with just $10 million.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Patton Oswalt: Filming love scene with Charlize Theron for Young Adult was a 'nightmare'

Hockey Hall of Fame Treasures

Editor: Steve Cameron

Photographer: Matthew Manor

Publisher: Firefly Books (fireflybooks.com)

Price: $39.95

Visit: clubmetro.com for your chance to win a copy of this book.

Return of the mack

J.R. deals again as original cast members filming reboot to popular series

J.R. Ewing has returned to Dallas.

With Larry Hagman reprising his role as the conniving Texas oilman, filming is underway at locations all over the city for TNT's new television series Dallas, which will also see the return of Patrick Duffy as J.R.'s brother Bobby and Linda Gray as J.R.'s ex-wife Sue Ellen, along with a new generation of Ewings.

And, of course, the spotlight also returns to the city itself, with its distinctive skyline rising from the prairie.

"We're trying to give the show a real sense of place and Dallas has a real personality," said location manager John Patterson, adding, "It's a city that does things in a big way. That's part of J.R. and part of what we try to give the show — a sense of the city, which is big, very well done, shiny, new and looking toward the future."

TNT has ordered 10 episodes of the series, set to air in summer 2012. Filming for the series, entirely shot in Dallas, began mid-October and is expected to wrap in late January.

"There was just no way we were going to film anywhere else," said executive producer Cynthia Cidre, who also wrote the pilot for the new series, a "mix of the old world and the new world."

The original series, which aired from 1978 to 1991, enjoyed popularity around the world as viewers tuned in to watch the scheming Ewing family. As the plot twisted and turned season after season, the series contributed to some of TV's most memorable moments. After Bobby died in a season cliffhanger in 1985 after being hit by a car, the entire next season was revealed to have been a prolonged dream sequence when his former wife, with whom he had reconciled, wakes up to find him alive, taking a shower. The 1986-87 season then mark's Duffy's return to the cast after a year-long absence.

And, of course, there was the cliffhanger in 1980 that left the whole world in suspense. The catchphrase "Who shot J.R.?" became part of the common vernacular as viewers waited to find out who had fired on J.R. When viewers tuned in for the answer on Nov. 21, 1980, the shooter was revealed to be J.R.'s vengeful mistress, who was also his sister-in-law. That episode was seen by more people than any TV program in history up until that time.

THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Put on for the city

- The cast of Dallas are filming at plenty of classic Dallas locations including downtown's Neiman Marcus, the luxury chain's flagship store, and the State Fair of Texas. And, of course, they're shooting at the famed Southfork Ranch, an events centre that houses the Ewing Mansion.

TONY GUTIERREZ/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

▶ Larry Hagman, pictured last month, played J.R. Ewing in Dallas, which aired from 1978 to 1991.

Success 'beyond anyone's wildest dreams'

Arcade Fire coming off monumental year ◐ Triumphs continue to bring attention to Montreal music scene

It was a year in which Arcade Fire burned brightly.

The coveted Grammy Award for Album of the Year, honouring their latest release The Suburbs, kicked off a slew of honours won by the Montreal-based indie band in 2011.

By the end of the year, they had also swept the same categories at the Juno, Polaris and Brit awards, and taken home anglophone album of the year from Quebec's L'Autre Gala de L'ADISQ.

After giving an international shout-out to their Montreal hometown at the Grammys, they also found time to say thanks to their local fans in September with a free outdoor show downtown, which packed in around 100,000 people.

And that gratitude is about to continue into the new year as the band says it's going to invest in helping young artists while also working on their next undisclosed recording project.

"Their success has gone beyond anyone's wildest dreams — even them, I believe," says Dan Seligman, the creative director and co-founder of the Pop Montreal indie music festival, which hosted the outdoor concert.

Seligman, who has booked the band often during the 10 years of his festival and in other gigs, says any attention Arcade Fire gets benefits the local music scene.

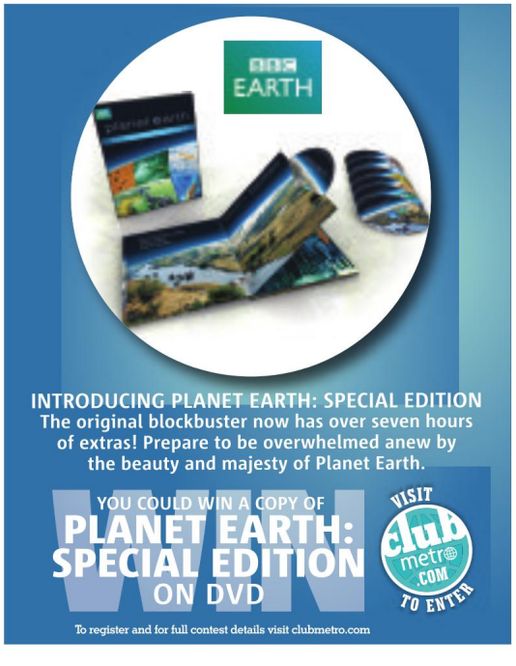
"The hope is that it'll continue to help other bands get attention and become successful, touring musicians and have careers."

Leah Greenblatt, a senior editor at New York-based Entertainment Weekly magazine, said that even though they had been around for a while, Arcade Fire's Grammy win caused jaws to drop. Even the band looked stunned as TV cameras caught their reaction.

"I was shocked," Greenblatt said, explaining that as a longtime writer on the indie music scene she had often seen her favourite artists ghettoized into indie or alternative music categories.

"I just assumed that Arcade would get the alternative album of the year," she said, speculating that besides the quality of the album, the Grammys were trying to appeal to a younger audience this year.

THE CANADIAN PRESS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The perils of party-rocking

SkyBlu of LMFAO takes some time off to deal with herniated discs
RedFoo says injury caused by 'the shuffle, the wiggle and the ladies'

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

THE WORD

DOROTHY ROBINSON
SCENE@METRONEWS.CA

While Demi Lovato whizzed by the press line at Z100's Jingle Ball Friday night — an annual New York City concert featuring a number of Top 40 acts — we were happy to chat with RedFoo of LMFAO, whose partner SkyBlu was noticeably absent for the big show.

"SkyBlu hurt his back," Foo told Metro before the concert started.

"He has some herniated discs. He's been performing for a while injured, because he's a true champ, but the doctor said [he's] gotta take a break. That shuffle move we do, when he does it, I always tell him you gotta bend [at the knee]. And then with the wiggle, you can't wiggle too hard, even if there's sexy ladies in the audience screaming at you — you gotta keep it confined.

So we don't know exactly what has happened, but we think it's combined [with] the shuffle, the wiggle and the ladies."

But SkyBlu's injury isn't holding the group back for the new year. On their to-do list for 2012?

"Films," Foo says. "Taking the whole LMFAO party rock lifestyle and putting it on the big screen."

"That shuffle move we do, when he does it, I always tell him you gotta bend [at the knee]. And then with the wiggle, you can't wiggle too hard, even if there's sexy ladies in the audience screaming at you — you gotta keep it confined."

REDFOO ON SKYBLU'S BACK INJURY

▶ RedFoo of LMFAO attends Z100's Jingle Ball on Friday.

Aniston the Sexiest Woman of All Time?

Jennifer Aniston

Men's Health has dubbed Jennifer Aniston the Sexiest Woman of All Time, but while she's flattered by their decision, Aniston insists the title would've gone to someone else if she had any say in it.

"It's a tie between Brigitte Bardot and Gloria Steinem," she tells the magazine. "But if I had to choose one, I'd say Gloria because, well, she's the full package. That's sexy."

Raquel Welch, Marilyn Monroe, Britney Spears and Madonna round out the top five on the magazine's list, while Angelina Jolie comes in at No. 10.

METRO

Celebrity tweets

@MissKellyO

i have the worlds worst head ache sitting in the dark all moody because of it!

@ElizabethBanks

This public gas station rest room is two ticks better than exactly what you're expecting.

@justinbieber

A little #hockey with the fellas

@ConanOBrien

I took my kids to see the guy in the red suit today. That's right, the Spider-Man on Hollywood Boulevard.

Abigail's lips are sealed

Also on the carpet before Jingle Ball was New Year's Eve star Abigail Breslin, who looked all grown up in a Rag & Bone dress and smoky eye makeup.

But the movie star and budding songstress (Jingle Ball was her first appearance as a singer in the band CABB) tells us that going through puberty in the public eye hasn't been weird for her.

"When I'm home, I do the same things all my friends do — clean my room, feed the dog.

There are definitely pressures, but I think that keeping perspective is really important," says Breslin.

But that doesn't mean she doesn't have her cringe-worthy moments.

"2008 was just a really big fashion mistake," she tells us, "with the arm warmers, the neon, and zebra-print Converse."

And since Abigail's character in New Year's Eve is hoping to get her first kiss on the big night, we wanted to know what her first kiss was like — but she wouldn't spill.

"I'll keep the off-screen kisses off-screen," she told us.

DOROTHY ROBINSON

▶ Abigail Breslin

Angie gets 'lost' online shopping

While Angelina Jolie prefers to get a jump on Christmas shopping, she won't be doing it online, admitting that retail websites make her head spin.

"I always Christmas shop early in case we have to travel somewhere," Jolie tells USA Today.

"Brad [Pitt] and I were on Amazon.com for the first time a week ago. But we got lost. After an hour, we just shut it off. My brain is too scattered and the wires go in different directions. I'll stick to catalogues." METRO

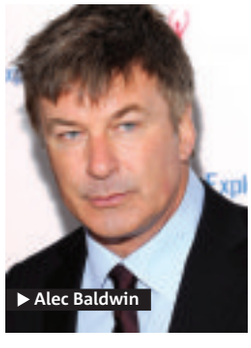
Flying isn't fun: Baldwin

In the wake of his being kicked off a plane for not turning off his iPhone, Alec Baldwin took to the Huffington Post to simultaneously apologize and defend himself.

"I would like to apologize to the other passengers onboard the American Airlines flight that I was thrown off of yesterday. It was never my intention to inconvenience anyone with my 'issue' with a certain flight attendant," he writes, though he insists part of the blame should go to the changes in airline service over the last 10 years.

"September 11 was a horrific day in the airline industry, yet in the wake of that event, I believe carriers and airports have used that as an excuse to make the air travel experience as inelegant as possible," he says.

METRO



▶ Alec Baldwin

This Christmas, skip the plastic one-trick, battery-operated gadgets that hold your kids' attention for five minutes These gifts are clever, fun and will spark your child's imagination

4 Great kids' gifts

TEXT **EMMA E. FORREST, METRO WORLD NEWS**

1 FOR BABY NIGHT OWLS: Lullaby rock hits

Do saccharine nursery rhymes make you cringe? This inspired series of CDs transforms your favourite tunes into soothing lullabies, with tinkling covers of classic tracks by bands including AC/DC, Led Zeppelin, U2, Madonna, Van Halen and Bob Marley. What could more amusing than a xylophone version of Beastie Boys' No Sleep Til Brooklyn or Metallica's Enter Sandman. Or more ironic than an anxious new parent hearing The Police's Every Breath You Take?

$16.98
rockabyebabymusic.com

2 FOR TINY TEETHERS: 'Where's the Bone?' cloth book

This book about a funny dog searching for its bone in lots of exciting places ticks all the boxes for tiny tots: lots of textures to feel, flaps to flip, bits to pull. They will love to pop the bone in the clouds, up a mountain or in the dog's mouth, and they'll love chewing on the book even more.

$15.50
manhattantoy.com

3 FOR CRAFTY KIDS: 'Merry Stickmas' sticker greetings cards

Sticker-mad kids will love creating their own greetings cards with these packs. These ingenious kits include blank cards and sets of stickers so your kid can create his or her own scenes including Santa Claus, snowmen, reindeer and cute kids throwing snowballs.

$8
etsy.com/shop/KidsCardKits

4 FOR AMATEUR ASTROLOGERS: Remote Control Moon

Illuminating in more ways than one, this wall light replicates the phases of the moon on an authentic moonscape (very educational), as well as serving as a reassuring nightlight. Using a remote control it can also be used as a light. It comes with an educational booklet about the moon's cycles.

3 life

Dough truths

Researchers who investigated a 2009 U.S. outbreak of foodborne illness are proving that raw cookie dough could make you sick.

Concerns about raw dough have centred on raw eggs possibly containing bacteria such as salmonella. Here, investigators looked into Shiga toxin-producing Escherichia coli (STEC).

The outbreak saw 35 people admitted to hospital. It was shown that 33 of the 35 ate raw cookie dough.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

It's not all 'ho, ho, ho': Santa promising less in bad economy

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Holiday hazards revealed

Protect your kids against these eight potential dangers that are common during this festive time of the year

It may be a time of joy, but many familiar and prominent holiday staples could pose potential risks to the safety of children.

BC Children's Hospital and BC Ambulance Service are teaming up in their efforts to encourage parents and caregivers alike to help ensure the festive season is a safe one.

Between Dec. 23, 2010, and Jan. 5, 2011, BC Ambulance Service responded to 194 calls across the province involving patients ages 10 and under.

"With all the excitement of the holidays, some potential safety hazards can cause serious injury," said Dr. Shelina Babul, associate director and sports injury specialist at the BC Injury and Research Prevention Unit at BC Children's Hospital. THE CANADIAN PRESS

FLICKR: SCALESPEEDER

1

Toys

Choose items that match your child's age, skills and interest level. Small pieces – that can easily come off – and small batteries and magnets can cause choking and/or internal chemical burns. Toys with strings longer than 30 cm could strangle babies and toddlers.

FLICKR: KATERHA

2

Strings of electric lights

Strings of electric lights are hazardous as they are attractive to young children. They run the risk of being strangled, burned or electrocuted if they get wrapped up in the wires or put lights in their mouths.

FLICKR: L.C.NOTTAASEN

3

Candles

Even school-age kids are drawn to flames, so keep lighted candles well out of reach. Don't put lighted candles on a tablecloth or anywhere else that a child could pull down or knock over. Place menorahs on a high surface and not too close to the edge of a table.

FLICKR: STEVE P2008

4

Christmas tree location

Place your Christmas tree a good distance from any heat sources such as fireplaces, radiators or portable heaters. Cut a few centimetres off the trunk to expose fresh wood. This allows for better water absorption and will help keep your tree from becoming a hazard.

FLICKR: HARVEYBEN

5

Visiting family and friends

The homes you visit may not be child-proofed. Each year, curious toddlers choke or get poisoned by exploring and getting their hands on items not meant for children such as pills, vitamins, cosmetics and cleaning products.

Holiday Promotion
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get the 6th for Free.
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Minimum value for Gift Certificates buy 5 get 1 free is $25.00.

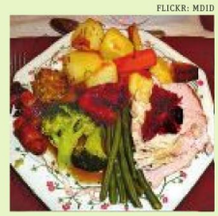
FLICKR: MRMEDIA

6

Fireplaces

A child's skin is four times thinner than an adult's and can burn four times faster. The glass of a gas fireplace heats up to 200 C (400 F) in just six minutes and takes 45 minutes to cool down. The pilot light of a gas fireplace may also heat the glass enough to cause a burn. Stay close to your child when in a room with a fireplace that is on or has recently been turned off. Block the fireplace with a hearth gate or screen that bolts into or around your fireplace, or put a safety gate in the doorway to the room with a fireplace.

FLICKR: MDID



7

Food

Children may be eating unfamiliar foods for the first time this holiday season. It's common to see more injuries in the emergency room as a result of children getting large pieces of nuts, carrots or apples stuck in their airways. Cut foods into small pieces and encourage children to sit quietly while eating, and to chew slowly. Children are less likely to choke if they chew food thoroughly before swallowing.

FLICKR: TERRYJOHNSTON

8

Tinsel, ornaments and gift wrap

While tinsel can make a tree sparkle, it's also a choking hazard for young children. Hang strands high and out of your child's reach. Also, place ornaments higher up on the tree as they can break easily and cause cuts or harm if swallowed. Be careful of holiday gift-wrapping like bags, paper, ribbons and bows. These items can strangle, suffocate or choke small children.

Vegetarian cubes of yum

Potato and red pepper are combined in this dish that works well as a tasty appetizer or a meatless meal Offer it at your next holiday party

THE CANADIAN PRESS H/O

Cut cubes into bite-sized pieces or larger ones, depending on how you're serving them.

Ingredients:

- 250 ml (1 cup) each diced peeled Yukon Gold potato and sweet potato
- 25 ml (2 tbsp) olive oil
- 125 ml (1/2 cup) diced sweet red pepper
- 175 ml (3/4 cup) diced onion
- salt and pepper
- 4 eggs
- 50 ml (1/4 cup) 18 per cent cream

Preparation:

1. On greased baking sheet, toss Yukon Gold and sweet potato with 10 ml (2 tsp) of oil. Bake in 180 C (350 F) oven 15 mins or until tender. Let cool.
2. In skillet, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) of oil over high heat; sauté red pepper 4 mins. Remove from pan. In same skillet, heat 10 ml (2 tsp) of remaining oil over medium-high heat; cook onion until tender and golden, 2 mins. Let cool. Combine all cooked vegetables; season with salt and pepper to taste.
3. In bowl with electric mixer, beat eggs with cream. Add cooked vegetables and mix. Pour into greased 2.5 L (9-inch) square baking dish. Bake in 180 C (350 F) oven for 25 minutes or until set. Let cool. Cut into cubes. **THE CANADIAN PRESS/ FOODLAND ONTARIO/ ADAPTED BY EMILY RICHARDS, A PROFESSIONAL HOME ECONOMIST, COOKBOOK AUTHOR AND A TV CELEBRITY CHEF. (EMILYRICHARDSCOOKS.CA)**

Rose Reisman's Swap It

With the festive season in full swing, visiting family and friends for dinner parties is common, as are hor d'oeuvres. But these treats could be full of fat or calories.

SELECTION MINIATURE QUICHE (4 PIECES)
320 CALORIES, 24 GM FAT

SWAP IT!

IRRESISTIBLE PHYLLO APPETIZERS (4 PIECES)
140 CALORIES, 5 GM FAT

PHYLLO PASTRY CONSISTS OF THIN SHEETS OF DOUGH THAT CONTAIN HALF THE CALORIES AND FOUR TIMES LESS FAT THAN A REGULAR CRUST. [FOR MORE, VISIT ROSEREISMAN.COM]

QUICHE, WHETHER MINI OR NOT, IS MADE OF EGGS, CREAM, CHEESE AND A CRUST OF BUTTER OR SHORTENING. THAT SPELLS CALORIES AND FAT. FOUR PIECES OF A MINI QUICHE ARE EQUAL TO FOUR SUNNY SIDE EGGS WITH THREE STRIPS OF BACON IN FAT.

Monitoring future deforestation

Richard Branson promises to use his satellites to keep an eye on forests Speaks to Metro about nuclear war

ELISABETH BRAW
NEWS@METRONEWS.CA
METRO WORLD NEWS IN LONDON

GETTY IMAGES

Sir Richard Branson is working to change the way we look at the world.

Sir Richard Branson has a message: we can save our Earth from nuclear Armageddon and environmental meltdown alike.

With Cutnukes.org, Branson pushes for fewer atomic bombs. His airliners use waste as fuel, and he has created a sanctuary for Malagasy lemurs displaced by deforestation. Now he plans to monitor global deforestation with satellites, he tells Metro.

You're about to open a reserve for ringtailed lemurs that have been displaced by deforestation in Madagascar. Are you planning to help other species that have been displaced by deforestation?

The lemur is such a beautiful species. We simply have to save the lemurs, and I'm trying to help other species as well.

For the past several months I've travelled around the world to save sharks, and soon I'll be travelling to India to try to save the blue tiger.

When it comes to deforestation, of course humans who have been displaced are very important, but animal species are equally important. More important, actually.

Deforestation is often caused by local subsistence farmers. What's the solution?

One thing we can do about illegal logging is discover it before it's too late. That's why I've just launched a new initiative based at my spaceport. We'll run have satellites that will monitor forests to see where forests are being cut down.

You're in favour of eliminating nuclear weapons. Why should good countries get rid of their nuclear weapons when bad countries still have them?

They shouldn't completely eliminate them. We're suggesting that nuclear weapons states get rid of their nuclear weapons in steps. From a deterrent point of view, a country only needs 300 nuclear weapons. Getting rid of nuclear weapons would save a lot of money and would solve many of the world's current deficit problems.

In other words, is the global recession a good thing for nuclear disarmament?

Definitely. For example, one of the easiest things President Obama could do to solve the U.S. budget crisis is getting rid of 1,000 nuclear warheads.

Is your interest in nuclear weapons an extension of your green involvement?

Yes. I've been visited Hiroshima and Nagasaki to see the effects of nuclear weapons.

And it's an extension of my interest in solving global conflicts.

That's why I fund The Elders, an organization founded by Nelson Mandela that works to solve global conflicts.

The world has been talking about environmental problems for so long. Do you see any reasons for optimism?

Absolutely. We have to deal with environmental problems in an entrepreneurial spirit.

For example, Virgin's new aviation fuel uses waste from steel mills. Millions of jobs could be created worldwide by greening our cities.

The environment would benefit, the cities would benefit, regular people would benefit, and it would stop money pouring out to the Middle East.

From couch to class act

Susan Sly, an entrepreneur, author, professional speaker, trainer and athlete, carries a message of motivation

TURNING POINT

TERESA KRUZE
LIFE@METRONEWS.CA

Susan Sly is a 'Have it All Woman' and she's even written a best-selling book about the subject. No one would guess that 11 years ago her life completely collapsed when she was diagnosed with Multiple Sclerosis.

She lost everything; her health, marriage and business. She was $100,000 in debt with a three-year-old child and sleeping on a family member's couch.

"I wanted to die but it was at that point where I had to make a decision. Do I want to fight or surrender?"

Susan began to heal her body and got into multi-level marketing. Today, the mother of four children is a millionaire, has written five books, is married to her high school sweetheart and is still competing in triathlons and marathons.

"I was supposed to be in a wheelchair but I'm still running. I get very emotional because I'm just so grateful and appreciative."

Susan's next goal is to empower one million women around the world. "I know what it's like to live in desperation and not know what tomorrow's going to bring. I really believe that we can transcend anything if we're open. I really do."

Have it all too!

Susan Sly's advice:

- Take time every day for gratitude.
- Keep an open mind because some of the best ideas may come through the most unlikely sources.
- If you want to make a million a year, adopt million-dollar habits. Be daring and willing to make changes happen and develop good professional instincts.
- Take time every day to read or listen to something empowering
- Be kind to yourself. It may not happen at the speed you want it to so be kind and compassionate.
- Visit stepintoyourpower.com.

Susan's stats

- First business at age 11
- Has generated over $60 million in multi-level marketing sales
- Six-time Team Canada athlete in Track and Field and Duathlon
- Competed in two world championships
- Sponsor of 20 children with World Vision

▶ Susan Sly is the author of The Have it All Woman along with four other books.

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Let it go to your head

Research indicates that feelings of social power can bring about a positive change in one's thought process

ISTOCK

▶ Focus on the fight.

A new study suggests that feeling powerful really does go to people's heads — and that's a good thing.

The study was co-authored by Li-Jun Ji, a professor at Queen's University and a social psychologist who specializes in relationships between culture and thinking.

Power — defined as the ability to influence others — makes people think differently, says Ji.

In North America, a feeling of power leads to thinking in a focused and analytical way, and Ji says that that's a good way to think when pursuing personal goals in this society.

Thinking analytically allows you to focus on a goal and how to achieve it without being distracted by the surroundings or context, she says.

"What's most interesting about this study is the idea that thinking is flexible, not rigid or innately pre-programmed," says Ji.

"We are able to attune our style of thinking to the needs of the situation.

"However, the specific ways we might attune our thinking seems to depend on our cultural background."

The lead author on the study, Yuri Miyamoto at the University of Wisconsin-Madison, has also looked at Japanese participants and found that in general, East Asians are more holistic in their reasoning than European-North Americans.

Holistic thinking, in contrast to analytical thinking, is more relationship and context-focused, Ji explains.

THE CANADIAN PRESS

ALL I WANT FOR CHRISTMAS...

GIFT CARDS GROWING IN POPULARITY

Gift cards — a phenomenon that seemed new in 2000 — have practically taken over holiday gift giving.

The vast majority of retail companies now offer them, said Brent Houlden, national retail leader for Deloitte Canada. "From the customer's point of view it's all personalization, and simplicity, and convenience," he explained.

Simply put, gift cards are the answer to an age-old problem — the unwanted gift, said Houlden.

The beauty of a gift card is that it lets the gift recipient choose exactly what they want, said Tiffany Bourré, external communications manager for Hudson's Bay Company.

"It virtually eliminates the guess work from gift purchasing," said Bourré. It also eliminates the possibility of returns (and in some cases offending the gift giver by doing so)."

That said, the gift card still needs to suit the recipient, she advised. "There is no question that gift cards have become a more accepted alternative for gift giving in general, but fair to say that often they slant to a younger demographic."

Whatever your age, on many occasions gift cards make sure that gift givers and recipients avoid embarrassment or hard feelings, said Houlden. "If you bought me the red hat and I didn't want the red hat, then you're upset because I didn't like your taste," he explained. "That's why gift cards have taken off so much."

The only problem is that they can seem a little impersonal, said Houlden.

"If I'm giving you a wedding gift and I just give you cash, there's no emotional connection there," Houlden said. People want to be remembered for the gifts they give, he explained.

Now companies are looking for ways that gift givers can easily personalize their gift cards — digitally. In the next few years we'll see techologies tailored to allowing gift givers to send a personalized photo or video along with their gift cards, said Houlden.

Buyers can also get gift cards online without having to set foot in a store. Many brands have them available to purchase online, so they're easy to send to faraway friends and family.

The future is mobile and the days of the plastic gift card are numbered, said Houlden. "One person will send a gift card to another electronically and it'll just load into the gift recipient's cell phone," he predicted.

"I think it's the next generation that people should be watching for."

GIFT CARD TIPS

GET A CARD FOR LESS
Make sure you negotiate a discount if you buy in bulk.

BUY DISCOUNTED ITEMS
Boxing Day!

TAKE ADVANTAGE OF RELOADING DISCOUNTS
Starbucks, for example, gives customers the option of automatically reloading, and rewards them for it with free drinks.

PERSONALIZE
Include a homemade card or recorded message (e.g. Christmas carol) to send your best wishes.

HOW TO GET MORE OUT OF GIFT CARDS THIS HOLIDAY SEASON

STRETCHING YOUR BUDGET

For the fifth year in a row, gift cards top the list of most popular presents to receive. But before you stock up on these holiday favourites, make sure you're getting the most for your money. Frances Ho, founder of CardSwap, Canada's leading site for buying and selling gift cards, offers these expert tips for stretching your budget a little further:

- **Turn points from loyalty programs such as Air Miles or Aeroplan into gift cards.**
- **Browse sites such as CardSwap.ca (for Canada) or Plastic Jungle (U.S. only) to find gift cards for 10 to 15 per cent below face value.**
- **Avoid overspending: Use a prepaid Visa card to purchase all your gifts. Once the card is depleted, you are done!**
- **When you receive gift cards, save them for Boxing Day or early January. That's when stores offer their best deals, so your card has more buying power.**
- **Don't waste your gift cards by letting them sit in a drawer. If you haven't redeemed them by February, consider converting them to cash through a site like CardSwap.ca.**

Ho also suggests rounding up old gift cards and selling them online to make some quick holiday cash. She says the average family has several unused cards lying around the house — and they could see as much as 92 per cent of that face value. That could offer a welcome boost to this year's gift-giving budget. Happy Shopping!

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GIFT CARDS
CASH UP TO 95%
sell unwanted
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CardSwap.ca - Canada's #1 place to buy and sell gift cards.
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Post picture of this coupon on www.facebook.com/CardSwap to redeem and for details.
* valid toward any gift card available on CardSwap, which offers discounted gift cards from over 300 of Canada's largest retailers.

OUR FINEST NOTRE EXCELLENCE

WHAT IS IT?
A new line of delectable foods from Walmart. They're easy to prepare and affordable — appetizers starting at $5 a box.

WHAT MAKES OUR FINEST DELICIOUS?
Recipes are made with high quality ingredients and were carefully chosen by a team of food experts.

THE FOOD
Find almost 100 dishes from wonton-wrapped shrimp to grain-fed young turkeys, basted with real butter to cocoa-dusted Belgian truffles.

HOLIDAY ENTERTAINING MADE EASY WITH OUR FINEST

HIGH QUALITY FOODS EXCLUSIVE TO WALMART

Canadians don't want to sacrifice quality when they celebrate with family and friends this holiday season, said Sandra Farwell, director of private brands — foods for Walmart Canada.

That's why the company is introducing Our Finest, a new line of delectable high-quality foods exclusive to Walmart, said Farwell.

"Many Canadians are staying in this holiday, and that equals a lot of home cooking and entertaining," said Farwell.

Our Finest costs less than the national leading brands — appetizers start as low as $5 a box. "Entertaining should be easy and affordable," insisted Farwell.

FROM THE OUR FINEST MENU:

APPETIZERS
Farwell suggests starting the party with melt-in-your-mouth pastry appetizers, like the Our Finest salmon and dill in puff pastry or cheese and applewood smoked bacon mini tarts.

Authentic international favourites like mini vegetable samosas with tamarind sauce ($5), Greek spanakopita ($5), or an assortment of Angus beef, Italian, and Swedish meatballs ($8) are also a popular pre-dinner indulgence.

DRINKS
Find the perfect drink for the occasion from the wide selection of non-alcoholic sparkling beverages including mojito, sangria, and margarita ($2.77 for a pack of four).

MAIN COURSE
A tantalizing centrepiece to any holiday table, the Our Finest spiral ham is cured and naturally smoked with hickory chips. It comes pre-cooked and pre-sliced, with an easy-to-prepare glaze, so it's great for those who want to spend less time cooking and more time relaxing with friends and family.

DESSERT
The Our Finest chocolate and toffee collection ($8.97), the all-natural English wine gums ($4.98) and liquorice allsorts ($4.98) make a beautiful statement on a tiered serving dish, and provide enough variety to tickle the taste buds of all your guests.

Try finishing off the feast with the Our Finest candy cane ice cream ($4.97), made with real dairy cream, mint chocolate bark, and candy cane pieces.

"We're confident Canadians will be proud to serve these items as part of their festivities," Farwell said.

HOW TO HOST A GREAT PARTY

KEEP IT SIMPLE
Sometimes the simplest dishes are the most delicious, and fine pre-prepared foods are perfect for taking the pressure off if you don't have much time to spare.

KNOW YOUR GUESTS
Understand your guests' likes and dislikes, and make sure to provide vegetarian options.

PRE-PREP
Get ready well before the party starts — the slicing and dicing, the food presentation, the decorating.

CREATE A MOOD WITH FESTIVE NAPKINS, PLATES, CUTLERY & GLASSES
Accent your home with festive candleholders, serving dishes, and other decorative touches to create a warm holiday atmosphere.

COMPILE THE PERFECT SOUNDTRACK
Consider the musical tastes of your guests, throw in some old favourites, and mix it up a little. Variety is key.

RELAX AND ENJOY THE PARTY
Make the time to chat with your guests. That's what really makes a great party — the good company and scintillating conversation.

Not sure what to get them this Christmas?
How about everything.

This Christmas give them the *Gift of Choice* with a Walmart Gift Card.

Creating happy holiday moments.
Walmart. Save money. Live better.

See store for details.

Carte-cadeau
Walmart
Gift Card
TM/MC

A CANADIAN RETAIL ICON IS READY FOR THE HOLIDAYS

SEARS' GIFT CARDS OFFER CHOICE, FLEXIBILITY

In 1953, General Robert E. Wood, the legendary Chairman of Sears Roebuck, and Co., Chicago, sent a letter to Edgar G. Burton, President of the Robert Simpson Company of Toronto, to propose a partnership between their two companies in order to serve the Canadian market.

Today — almost 60 years later — Sears Canada is a multi-channel retailer with a network that includes 196 corporate stores, 285 hometown dealer stores, 31 home services showrooms, more than 1,700 catalogue merchandise pick-up locations, 108 Sears Travel offices and a nationwide home maintenance, repair, and installation network. Sears also publishes Canada's most extensive general merchandise catalogue and offers shopping online at sears.ca.

YES, WISHES DO COME TRUE — AT SEARS

Something that hasn't changed in six decades is Sears Canada's ability to make wishes come true, especially at Christmas time. Who's not familiar with the Sears Holiday Wish Book and the sight of a Sears store festively turned out for the Christmas season?

What has changed in 60 years is the Sears ability to stay current and relevant for Canadian consumers, including a strong online presence that's open 24/7 at sears.ca. If there's no time to visit the Sears store, busy moms and dads strapped for time can find almost anything online. And, for those hard-to-by-for individuals, Sears offers gift cards that offer choice and flexibility when it comes to gift giving. Sears gift cards can be purchased and redeemed across different channels, including stores, online as well as through the catalogue.

CHOICE, CHOICE AND MORE CHOICE

"Cards can be redeemed towards almost anything Sears has to offer," says Carla Seaquist, Product Manager, Gift Cards. "That includes purchases made in our stores, for your next travel destination, for a new roof or windows, or for your next family photo shoot." The choices don't end there.

Along with its proprietary gift cards, Sears also sells third-party gift cards. "We now offer everything from iTunes and Petro-Canada cards to Chapters Indigo and long-distance calling cards. You could say that we are a destination for gift cards. We've also partnered with Life Experiences.ca — the Canadian leader in experience gifts. There's no need to go anywhere else for your gift," says Seaquist.

THE PERFECT GIFT IS IN THE CARDS

WITH THE BUFFET OF GIFT CARDS OUT THERE, WHY CHOOSE SEARS?

GET PERSONAL

Sears offers a website (searsgiftcards.ca) where you can upload your favourite family photo and have it printed on a gift card. It's a great way to send someone a personalized gift right to his or her door. And why not select a special tin online to dress up your gift? If you don't have that perfect holiday family picture yet, there's also a link along with a special offer to Sears Portrait Studio where you can have your pictures saved on a CD. This way you can upload your pictures and use them on the personalized website to create a unique card.

NO FEES, NO EXPIRATION DATE

With Sears gift cards, you don't pay any additional fees nor do you have to worry about expiration dates (because there aren't any!). Gift cards are accepted at all Sears Department, Hometown, Outlet and Home Furnishing stores as well as through all of their service agents such as Sears Travel, Home Services and select licensed departments.

FLEXIBILITY

Gift cards are available in denominations ranging from $10 up to $500. There are many designs from which to choose — from the simple and elegant to the fun and festive. You can select one of the existing designs or create your own through the personalized gift card service. If you're a business looking for gift cards: Sears has a team that will deliver your holiday needs, just call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.

GIFT CARD PAIRINGS

If you love the idea of giving a card, but want to add an extra something special, you'll find some fun and interesting gift-card pairings available through Sears, for example, for $3.99 you can purchase Bosely™ the Beaver and Help support youth in your community, 50¢ from every sale will go to programs that promote the healthy development of youth.

THE IDEAL BUSINESS OR WORK GIFT

Sears Incentives Gift Cards are the perfect solution to reward employees, show appreciation to clients or customers, mark special occasions and so much more. Cards are available in any denomination from $5 to $500. Volume rebates are available for bulk purchases. For more information, please call 1-866-297-5306 or visit searsincentives.ca.

Sears

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gift cards to fulfill every WISH

CREATE YOUR OWN CARD!
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1 UPLOAD IMAGE 2 ADD YOUR MESSAGE 3 ORDER CARD

GIVE THEM WHAT THEY REALLY WANT

INDIGO GIFT CARDS REDEEMABLE IN-STORE, ONLINE

With Indigo gift cards, it's easy to give the gift they really want, redeemable both in-store and online, in both physical and electronic formats. Easy to give, easy to use on your favourite books, gifts and toys.

One of the easiest ways to exchange gifts this season is with Indigo's electronic gift cards. Conveniently purchased from Indigo's website, the electronic gift card is emailed directly to your recipient on a selected date. Choose from eight colourful holiday themes, in amounts from $2-$500. The traditional gift card, in amounts of $25, $50 and $100, is delivered right to your recipient's doorstep. All gift cards may be redeemed at Indigo, Chapters, Coles, kobo.com and indigo.ca.

What are this season's hottest gift items to redeem your gift cards? Indigo's annual best books list provides an easy gift inspiration for holiday shoppers. And teen books remain the biggest selling category behind adult fiction at Indigo and Chapters stores nationally.

But Indigo isn't just about books. "Indigo is Canada's largest purveyor of ideas and inspiration, at the heart of which is books and eReading but also includes a vast array of specialty toys, gifts and beautifully designed and affordable home décor that offer intrinsic quality, beauty and timelessness of design," says Janet Eger, Vice-president of public relations.

Another popular choice when redeeming gift cards this season is the Kobo family of eReaders, including the Kobo Vox Colour eReader, Kobo Touch WiFi, and the Kobo WiFi, as well as a range of stylish accessories. The new Kobo Vox is a 7-inch colour tablet pre-loaded with all the essentials including email, Web and media players and more than 15,000 Android Apps available.

Lots of great gifts for kids, tweens and teens can be purchased with the gift card. This holiday season, Canadians will be seeking unique and affordable gifts that touch the heart, mind and soul of every child on their list. Situated within Indigo and Chapters stores, IndigoKids shops boast 3,000 square feet of books and toys for children under 12 years old.

FREE SHIPPING ACROSS CANADA FOR PURCHASES OVER $25

In time for the busy holiday shopping season, Indigo's website features an easy and convenient online shopping destination for Canadians, where purchases over $25 ship free to anywhere in the country. Find out what products your friends "like" and "share" with Indigo's Facebook activity feed. Visit indigo.ca, become a fan at facebook.com/chaptersindigo, or follow Indigo on Twitter at twitter.com/chaptersindigo. "We're transforming our retail and online experience from a traditional bookstore to that of a unique retail experience that enriches customers' lives," says Janet Eger, vice-president of public relations.

Did you know that when you purchase a gift card holder, you're contributing to the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation? Choose from numerous styles and price points of gift card holders, from $1 sleeves to $4.99 plush bears and faux leather books in between at $1.99, with a portion of proceeds benefiting the Love of Reading Foundation.

The mission of the Indigo Love of Reading Foundation is to give every child a strong literacy foundation, providing $1.5 million in grants each year to high-needs elementary schools across Canada. And each fall, Indigo partners with the Foundation to host Indigo Adopt-A-School, where stores select a partner school to help replenish their libraries.

For every $25 gift card purchased, Indigo made a $12 donation to the adopted school.

Indigo gift cards are also one of the most appreciated gifts for teachers. Many people may not realize that, according to a Canadian Teacher's Federation study, teachers contributed an average of $453 per year on classroom materials that will not be reimbursed. So it's no wonder that according to a 2010 Indigo survey, nine out of 10 teachers preferred to receive gift cards from Indigo for Christmas and year-end "thank you" gifts.

TWEET YOUR SHOPPING LIST

Could you use some social networking help with your Christmas shopping list? Indigo has just launched #IndigoGiftSOS. Users can tweet their gifting dilemma and append the hashtag #IndigoGiftSOS to receive tailored recommendations from the little elves at Indigo. Followers can use #IndigoGiftSOS all the way through Dec. 24.

MUST-READ BOOKS

Indigo's book buying team reads hundreds of titles every year to create a compilation of must-read books. Here's Indigo's best of 2011 list:

HALF-BLOOD BLUES
Esi Edugyan – winner 2011 Scotiabank Giller Prize

THE CAT'S TABLE
Michael Ondaatje – Ondaatje's most personal

THE SISTERS BROTHERS
Patrick Dewitt – winner 2011 Governor Generals' Literary Award for Fiction

THE NIGHT CIRCUS
Erin Morgenstern – a totally original, enchanting debut

THE SENSE OF AN ENDING
Julian Barnes – winner 2011 Man Booker Prize

THE ART OF FIELDING
Chad Harbach – a perfect book for Dad

1Q84
Haruki Murakami – long awaited masterpiece; taut, mind-bending story

THE HOUSE OF SILK
Anthony Horowitz – the first Sherlock Holmes story authorized by Sir Arthur Conan Doyle's estate

SWAMPLANDIA!
Karen Russell – a quirky, spooky book from a young writer to watch

11/22/63
Stephen King – speculative fiction reviving vintage Stephen King

REAMDE
Neal Stephenson – an action-packed thriller driven by ideas and questions

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Your one stop holiday shop

Need last-minute gift advice? Tweet your request using #IndigoGiftSOS for suggestions from experts!

FIND THAT PERFECT GIFT AT ACCENTS PLUS

GIFTS FOR THAT HARD TO SHOP FOR LADY ON YOUR LIST

Looking for a sassy clutch to surprise your sister with this holiday season? Or got a fashionista and no clue what to get her? If so, you might want to pop in to Winnipeg's Accents Plus accessories store to find that perfect gift.

With two locations in downtown Winnipeg — each sized at approximately 1,000 square feet — co-owner Yaxing Lu likes to think of his two retail outlets as mini-Winners-type stores. "We're selling products such as purses, handbags, scarves and jewellery such as rings, earrings, crystal necklaces, rosaries and more" says Lu, noting purses range in prices from between $10-$45. "It's really a discount store because we get our stuff directly from factories in China, so we avoid a lot of the middleman costs. So you'll find lower than average prices here." Time your shopping well and you also might score a specialty bonus deal the store sometimes offers — such as the free compact mirror it recently gave out to shoppers who bought more than $30 worth of merchandise.

This season, Lu is seeing a spike in back to basics style purses—browns and blacks to go with more neutral winter coats (as opposed to the colourful purses customers shop for in spring and summer). "Also the larger shoulder bags are quite popular now," he notes.

So who shops at Accents Plus? Lu notes his customer base includes businesswomen and fashion- and cost-conscious shoppers searching for good deals. "We have a different range of stuff so we have a wide variety of people coming here for good quality, fashionable items," says Lu.

A TASTE OF SOUTHERN ITALY IN WINNIPEG

BROOKLYNN'S BISTRO OFFERS HOME-STYLE FOODS

Since opening in April, Brooklynn's Bistro has quickly earned a reputation as one of Winnipeg's top Italian restaurants. Glowing reviews from both Ciao Magazine and the Winnipeg Free Press have re-affirmed owner Sam Colosimo's faith in his concept for the restaurant.

"I wanted people to be able to enjoy the same home-style foods I grew up with," he says. "My mother and my aunt both love to cook and they're very good at it. Now they prepare many of the sauces and pasta served at the restaurant."

Photo credit: StockByte/Thinkstock.

The family tradition lives on in the restaurant's name: Brooklynn is Sam's three-year-old daughter. Although Sam was born in Canada, his family emigrated from Southern Italy. Located in a historic building in Winnipeg's Exchange District, Brooklynn's Bistro serves typical Calabrian fare such as chili mussels, hand-rolled gnocchi, veal rib chops and pizza baked in a wood-fired oven. In the evenings, chef Darryl Crumb (featured on Top Chef Canada) takes over the kitchen duties.

"Chef Crumb knows how to make the most of old-world cooking, although I don't think my mother and aunt would ever share their recipes with him," jokes Sam Colosimo. "And Winnipeg has a wonderful supply of fresh produce, including high-quality local meat and freshwater fish. So our menu changes regularly."

The décor evokes New York: a tall ceiling, large windows and massive pillars set off by the rich wood tones of the tables, chairs and bar. The feeling is warm and comfortable with just a touch of elegance. Given the ambiance and menu, the restaurant's popularity should come as no surprise.

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- Marion Warhaft.
★★★★★
4 1/2 stars out of 5

New Years Eve Dinner
2 seatings available
5:30 & 8:30pm
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Mangia!

Traditional cuisine from Southern Italy is expressed through creativity and fresh local ingredients from the region.

This is a sample of our menu:
- ***Seasonal wild mushroom and truffle risotto***
- ***Filet of beef***
- ***Fire-roasted veal rib chop***
- ***Pan-roasted sablefish***

NHL fans, visit Brooklynn's Bistro before or after the game to try our new menu and the city's best wood-fired pizza.

NHL teams, visit Boa Lounge post game.
Call 880-2200 for reservations.

Brooklynn's Bistro
177 Lombard Avenue. For reservations: 415-4112 www.brooklynnsbistro.ca
GIFT CARDS AVAILABLE FOR DETAILS CALL 880-2200.
Email: colosimo@shaw.ca

ELIMINATOR RC HOBBY SUPPLY A ONE-STOP SHOP

A PLACE MOTIVATING MEN TO SHOP FOR HOURS ON END

There's a hobby store in Winnipeg that's doing something unheard of: it's motivating men to shop for hours on end.

And while getting men to shop at all is a rare gift in retail, Eliminator RC Hobby Supply does just that while offering customers more than 12,000 square feet filled with the latest and greatest in radio-controlled hobbies.

"Men actually spend time shopping here," says owner Laurrie Gobeil, who runs the downtown Winnipeg store with husband Mike and son Ryan Gobeil. "They do like it here. It's a boys' toys emporium."

Considered a one-stop shop for hobbyists who enjoy playing with miniature-size boats, planes, cars, trucks and helicopters, the store also carries air brush supplies, paints, hobby tools, hard-to-find plastic models, Balsa models, slot cars and rockets.

"It's an affordable way to do the real thing," points out Gobeil. "Once you enter into the hobby it never leaves your life. You may put it aside for a while to pursue other things but people always come back to it."

It's not uncommon for Gobeil to see sons, fathers, even grandfathers enjoying a visit to the hobby store together.

The store, which offers gift cards in any denomination, also handles AR Drones, a flying quad-copter that's controlled with mobile technology, indoor and outdoor flying planes and radio-controlled military tanks.

Store mascots, which are two cats named Tigger and Cheeseburger and two cockatoos, Amy and Christine, help entertain wives and children while the men take their time browsing through the shop.

"We're a unique find," says Gobeil. "We keep our customers coming back by continually adding new stock. It's an amazing store."

KEY WEST HAIR STUDIO SPECIALIZES IN WIGS, HAIR GRAFTING

The ideal time to start thinking about a hairpiece is when you don't need one.

And the reason it's important has to do with the shame we feel about our crowning glory or lack thereof. Timing it just right means no one has to know but you.

Terry Baker, the owner of Winnipeg's Key West Hair Studio, instructed staff to let him know when would be the right time to consider a hairpiece so others wouldn't know he had one.

"Everybody in my family was balding," explains Baker, whose studio is in the Boyd Medical Centre. "So I thought when it looks like I can make the change without people noticing, I want to do it. Hair loss is embarrassing for men and for women."

About 60 per cent of Baker's customers are men, while women comprise the remaining 40 per cent. Baker's studio specializes in wigs and non-surgical hair grafting and offers customers the cut and colour services of a full-service hair salon.

The holiday season is a time when Baker fields a larger volume of calls from men about hair replacement. That's likely, he explains, because they're becoming self-conscious about their hair loss and they're heading into a time that's heavy on socializing.

The studio offers gift cards for family members to purchase and many children and spouses take advantage of the service.

"This is such a sensitive business," says Baker. "Most guys will phone and make an appointment and cancel and they do that three times before they come in the door."

Holiday Gift Cards
METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

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LIVE THE HARLEY-DAVIDSON® DREAM AT LONE STAR

Lone Star Harley-Davidson® is dedicated to helping customers get the full experience of one of the world's most respected and familiar brands.

"Harley-Davidson® is all about great quality, good friends and the freedom of the open road," says Sharon Danylchuk, General Manager of Lone Star.

Keni Harvey, Lone Star's Sales and Assistant Manager, concurs: "It's about escaping from the restrictions of our day-to-day lives. That's why so many people find Harleys® appealing."

One of only three Harley-Davidson® dealerships in Manitoba, Lone Star offers a full line of services and licensed parts and products — everything from helmets and leather jackets, chaps and gloves to jewelry, blankets, mugs and glasses. Located on Oak Point Road in Winnipeg, the store is open six days a week — seven during the summer months.

Lone Star hosts a series of regular events, including technical seminars, fundraisers for local charities, show-and-shines, demonstration days and meetings and rides of the local H.O.G.® (Harley-Davidson Owner's Group®) chapter.

Sharon, an avid rider, hosts a Women's Garage Party every spring to introduce

women to the world of Harley-Davidson®.

"This year, we had more than 75 women attend," she says. "More and more women are riding Harleys."

Along with a spacious showroom, Lone Star also has a full-service centre with eight bike bays, and a stockroom full of OEM and aftermarket parts and accessories.

"What I love about my job is helping people make their dreams come true," says Sharon Danylchuk. "It's a wonderful feeling."

IMAGE FITNESS FOCUSED ON MOTIVATION

TRULY A UNIQUE FITNESS EXPERIENCE

Image Fitness for Women has been a part of the St. James community for more than nine years, and has recently morphed into one of the city's most unsung fitness finds! After a refresh, this lovely neighbourhood club has become the go-to fitness resource for women. Whether it's the new yoga and hot yoga studio or ongoing kick-butt aerobic classes, Image is truly a unique fitness experience. What is the big difference you ask? Results apparently. Women in this club are highly motivated and achieve pretty much anything they set their minds to. Here is the deal: Image is focused on motivation and realizes that if you don't stay motivated, you won't get the results that make you happy.

Image works hard to help its clients keep the promises they make to themselves. If you haven't been to Image for a while, you really have to reintroduce yourself — change is a good thing. You will quickly see that Image's approach to fitness is female-friendly and that this club totally gets it. Give the club a whirl. Aerobic classes are a blast and the New Yoga/Hot Yoga Studio is perfect.

It is the season for great deals, so for a limited time, you can join the club for a $1 enrolment fee (regular price, $59).

If you're looking to change your unhealthy ways, you'll find others like you here. Go you!

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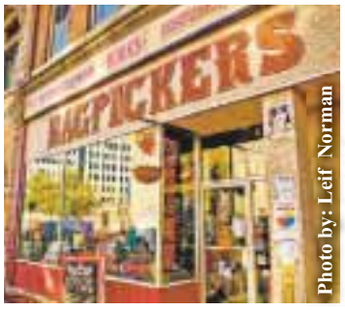

Photo by: Leif Norman

In the 23 years Kristen Andrews has been operating Ragpickers, she's pretty much co-ordinated a perpetual fashion show of clothing designs that have crossed the ages.

From cinch-waist Victorian styles to flapper fashions and 1970s disco divas to roman and Greek togas, Andrews' Ragpickers Anti-fashion Emporium Costumes & Books has dressed a wide array of body types and tastes from its funky Exchange District shop on McDermot Ave.

"We're Winnipeg's best-kept secret," says Andrews of her shop which is part costume rental and part high-quality vintage clothing. "People who love to shop for vintage don't want to tell their friends about us because they want to keep the store all to themselves."

Customers travel from Vancouver, Toronto and New York to experience the fine quality of the store's vintage fashions at a fraction of what they'd pay in their hometowns.

Closer to home, customers love the chance to scour through Ragpickers' many costume rentals to add colour to their parties, weddings and events. Andrews has helped outfit everything from a 1960s Mad Men theme to medieval feasts to a 1920s gangster-style wedding.

For the uninitiated, Andrews recommends finding the decade of clothing that fits your body type best. Consider such staples as denim and leather coats. This season a lot of women are looking for Dr. Zhivago style fur hats.

"With vintage, we can make it fitted just for you," says Andrews. "Normally that's only associated with couture items. You're going to look like a million bucks."

Ragpickers also offers books, jewellery and clothing from local designers. It used to house a local theatre company and a much larger bookstore but that was recently scaled back.

ARTISTS EMPORIUM CATERS TO THE HOBBY ARTIST

BY OFFERING MANY UNIQUE GIFTS

Got a hobby artist on your holiday shopping list this year? If so, you might want to pick up a gift card from Winnipeg-based Artists Emporium so your giftee can pick from the many, many supplies available at this fully stocked supply store.

As Janeen Balenovic, president of 12,000-square-foot Artists Emporium, points out, the store stocks a wide variety of supplies for an equally wide variety of artists — everything from canvasses and brushes to airbrush sets and more. "Soapstone is another one of the unique products we carry here — we get carvers coming in here from up north to carve their soapstone," notes Balenovic. "And we have items such as Hotwire where you carve through Styrofoam."

If you want to top that gift card up with something special, think about adding on a store membership for an additional $10. That card not only lets members receive an additional 20 per cent off of items throughout the year, but also gives members VIP customer service, including an invitation to the annual themed members night that the store is known for.

"We have it every spring and we get about 800 people out and feature suppliers from all over North America who come and set up tables," notes Balenovic. "We've have bands, music and some unique themes — such as the DaVinci Mystery Party, Party with Picasso, Party in Paris and more. This one coming up is passport around the world — each supplier gets a different country and they gear to that country. It's lots of fun."

Holiday Gift Cards

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING

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GIVE THE GIFT OF GOOD CHEER

FIND SOMETHING PEOPLE REALLY WANT AT MANITOBA'S LIQUOR MARTS

Giving the perfect holiday gifts is not about how much you spend. It's about finding something people really want. Sometimes, what they want most is choice.

This season, Manitoba's Liquor Marts are offering more options than ever. Through their newly expanded gift card program, you can give the gift of choice to your family, friends and co-workers, no matter how unique their tastes may be.

Liquor Mart gift cards can now be purchased online, in denominations as low as $25 and as high as $250, payable via PayPal or credit card. Orders are mailed within 24 hours of receipt and delivered within a week. To learn more about this option, visit liquormartsonline.com.

The choices are even greater in-store, where you aren't limited to preset denominations. Purchase a card valued at any amount between $10 and $250: Not only does this give you flexibility, it gives you the chance to personalize the card a little more. Maybe the dollar amount you'll put on it has special meaning. Maybe it represents the number of years you've known someone, or the days spent working together on a big project? Buy in person and you can make your gifts a little more special.

More fun, too. If someone on your Christmas list loves a particular product more than all the others, visit your local Liquor Mart to see if it has a custom gift card just for that brand. Chances are it will. Available in-store this season are $30 cards for Smirnoff, Bailey's, and several other popular spirits—and the cards are good for anything within their range of branded products. For the beer drinkers on your list, Liquor Marts are offering a Miller Genuine Draft card as well.

This is a season of celebration. By giving a Liquor Mart gift card, you can be sure the people on your list get to celebrate the way they want. And that means good cheer for everybody.

LARGE-FORMAT BOTTLES A POPULAR CHOICE

Wine and spirits are always popular gifts. But this holiday season, your generosity can stand out.

Right now, at select Manitoba Liquor Marts, you can buy your friends, family or co-workers special, large-format bottles of top vintages — and Grey Goose vodka, too.

Among the offerings for wine-lovers: 1500 mL bottles of Penfolds St Henri Shiraz (Australia), Veuve Cliquot Brut Champagne (France), and Mission Hill Oculus VQA (B.C.).

Also available: 3000 mL bottles of J Lohr Riverstone Chardonnay (California) and Tenuta Di Castiglioni (Italy).

These large-format sizes make a big impression—and they're a welcome gift for the growing number of Canadians building wine cellars in their own homes. Large format bottles have greater aging potential than standard sized bottles. Making a present of someone's favourite wine is a great way to acknowledge their taste in the finer things.

Grey Goose, meanwhile, has established itself as one of the foremost brands of vodka on the market, and the Liquor Mart is acknowledging this by offering the product in a 4500 mL size.

Always a preferred choice for mixed drinks, due to its flexibility, it's no surprise that sales of vodka have skyrocketed in recent years. Buyers have a renewed interest in cocktails of all kinds, and they're not limiting themselves to traditional concoctions. By purchasing the 4500 mL Grey Goose bottle as a gift, you're giving someone the chance to be creative with a premium product.

Don't wait to begin your festive shopping: These large-format bottles are produced in limited quantities, and not every Liquor Mart carries them. To find one that does near you, review the sidebar on this page.

THIS YEAR, GET THEM EXACTLY WHAT THEY WANT

Finish your list early this year with stylish $30 Liquor Mart gift cards. But hurry, they're only around for the holidays.

Liquor Mart Gift Cards, always the perfect fit.

MLCC LIQUOR MARTS
www.liquormartsonline.com

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The classic lime based cocktail that's perfect for any food or occasion.
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A refreshing drink with a touch of mint and a little sparkle.
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Perfect for parties and celebrations. Also delicious with desserts, fresh fruit and cheese.
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Crisp and clean with the touch of citrus and sweetness.
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Our tasty version of a wheat beer.
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Krombacher Radler
Enjoy a traditional shandy! 1/2 beer and 1/2 lemon soda.
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A refreshing, less filling option to regular beer.
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PEOPLE ALWAYS NEED FLOWERS

The seeds for Debbie Matthews' Winnipeg flower shop were planted long ago when as a youngster she knew she would one day be her own boss.

But it took a night-school teacher to suggest she pursue something she loved and a six-month stint as a florist to realize that flowers would be the ideal, recession-proof product for her entrepreneurial game plan.

"What do people always need?" asks Matthews. "Flowers. People always die and people always marry so they need flowers."

Seventeen years later, Matthews is still going strong with Grower Direct, one of 44 franchisees within Canada's one-and-only flower shop chain.

The store at Banning Street and Portage Avenue carries a gamut of flowers, poinsettias, Christmas greens and gift baskets that can be customized to suit any occasion. Gift and greeting cards are also available.

Matthews says Grower Direct accepts orders at any price point and that it's wrong to assume that you can't give the gift of flowers without spending a fortune.

Customers range from teenagers buying a single rose for their sweethearts to an elderly fellow buying flowers to celebrate 55 years of marriage to two sisters buying flowers for their mother's funeral.

"It's a very emotional job," says Matthews. "Every person who walks in that door has a different story."

The flowers and greens for her store are grown in Bogota, Columbia and shipped to Miami, where they are then transported in a refrigerated truck directly to Matthews' store. Cutting out the middleman or wholesaler is how Grower Direct offers flowers that stay fresh longer for a cheaper cost.

FESTIVAL DU VOYAGEUR PROMISES 10 DAYS OF FUN

TUCK A GIFT CARD UNDER THE TREE

It's a place where families can make their way through snow mazes and chew on maple taffy on snow. It's also an event for kid-free adults to catch some music and drink a shot of Caribou — a.k.a. fortified wine served in a glass made of ice. Appealing to families and non-family types alike, the annual Festival du Voyageur in Winnipeg promises yet another fun 10 days of action this coming February.

"We are the largest Western Canadian winter festival and the largest Francophone festival in Western Canada. We've been going strong for 43 years and I would say one of the main aspects of festival is it's themed around the fur trade era," says Emili Bellefleur, director of marketing and communications. So you'll find highlights such as trading post replica tradesmen such as blacksmiths and more at the annual entertainment event. "And throughout the years we've also grown the festival — it was brought to life by a group of francophones here to celebrate the Francophone community. But it's a lot more than that now." If you're a foodie for instance, then you'll probably be drawn to the many dishes offered at the festival including tourtiere, poutine, French Canadian pea soup and more.

And with a crowd of more than 100,000 people last year, grab a gift card for the festival to tuck under the tree this year. "It's a celebration of sight, sound, snow and spirit," says Bellefleur. "We always refer to it as the biggest kitchen party in the world."

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Festival du Voyageur

DUE TO EXTENSIVE RENOVATIONS TO THEIR 17 ST. MARY'S ROAD LOCATION, IC ENTERNET HAS MOVED INTO THEIR OWN BUILDING AT 485 ST.MARY'S ROAD

Don Cairns of IC Enternet has been in the computer retail and corporate computer business for 26 years.

Cairns started off in the computer business in 1984, building custom-made Apple II and IBM-compatible computers out of circuit boards, imported from Japan and Hong Kong.

He originally founded IC Computers in 1984, and operated his first retail store on Pembina Highway and Stafford. After a short time on Sargent Avenue, Cairns outgrew the size of this location and moved to a 2,500-square-foot location at 912 Portage Ave., where he stayed for five years. But again, he ran out of room with 12 staff members. By this time, yearly sales were exceeding $2 million, so Cairns decided to buy a 6,000 square-foot building at 17 St. Mary's Rd.

From the start of his business operations, Cairns did not borrow money, as interest rates were 19.5 per cent. Instead, he grew the business slowly, adding new parts to his product lines as the money became available.

In the early 1990s, the Arcnet was interconnected with all the universities and the military complexes around the world. Small Internet Service Providers (ISPs) started to spring up across Canada and the world and began to bring the Internet to the masses. Cairns started an ISP to serve both the consumer and business sectors in Winnipeg. He then decided to open two more computer locations in The Hudson's Bay Downtown and in St. Vital as well.

After several more years, Cairns opened another computer location in The Hudson's Bay in Surrey, B.C. By now, he had 26 employees and yearly sales in excess of $4 million. After a few years, The Hudson's Bay in the Surrey Place Mall closed, and Cairns had to vacate this location.

With the advent of cable and DSL Internet and higher baud speed rates Cairns could not compete with, he moved all his clients over to another ISP in Winnipeg, Prairie Online, in order to get out of the ISP business and to concentrate on computers once again.

IC Enternet has based its business model on service. After dealing with more than 60,000 different customers, IC Enternet has strived to take care of all its customers' needs. After eight more years of serving these customers, Cairns hopes IC Enternet's valuable and long-term customers will come to see them at their new 4500 Sq. Ft. location where they have 1000's of top name brand products at the lowest prices in the city. They have ongoing Computer product and Service specials that can't be beaten. Their home and business surveillance cameras provide an extremely high level of security and their OTA (Over The Air Antennas) are providing Manitobans with a new era of FREE Canadian High Definition TV programming.

METRO CUSTOM PUBLISHING Holiday Gift Cards

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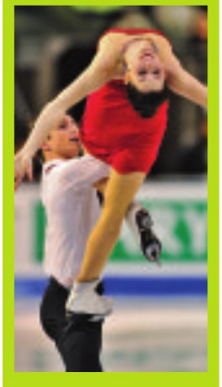
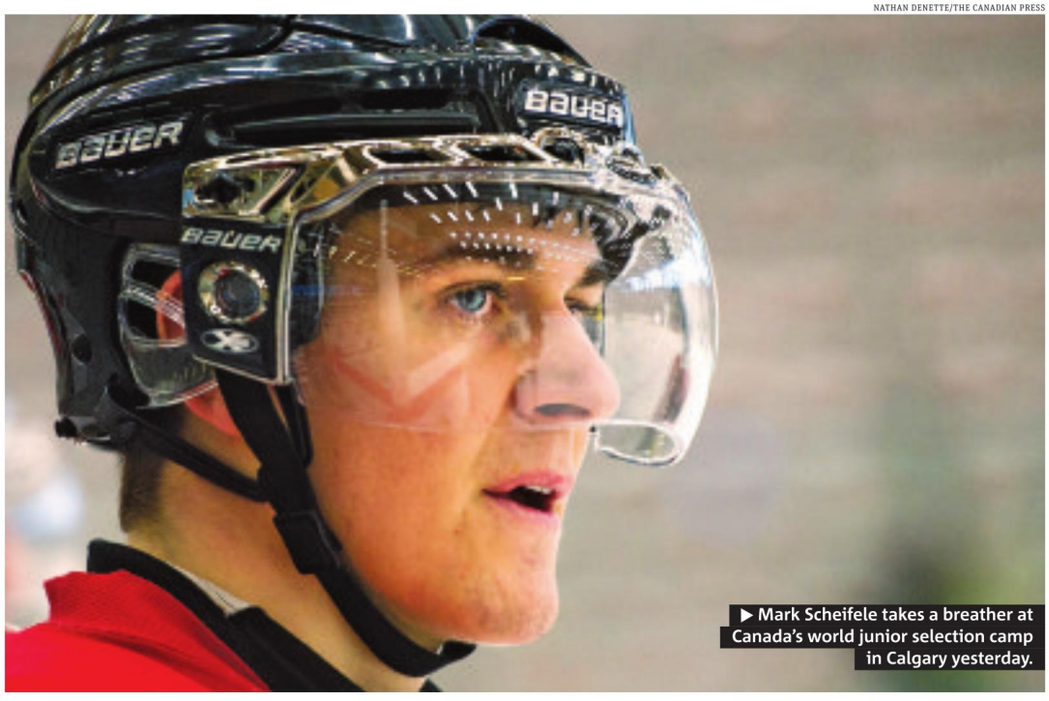


"It's a piss-off. Sorry, that's as blunt as I can be. We're not happy, we felt like we laid down a good skate and in our opinions a good enough skate to win and obviously we're missing something."

CANADIAN OLYMPIC ICE DANCE CHAMPION SCOTT MOIR AFTER HE AND PARTNER TESSA VIRTUE WERE AWARDED A SILVER MEDAL AT THE ISU GRAND PRIX FINAL YESTERDAY IN QUEBEC CITY. VIRTUE AND MOIR SCORED 112.33 POINTS FOR WHAT THEY FELT WAS A GOLD-MEDAL FREE DANCE AND 183.34 POINTS OVERALL. BUT AMERICAN WORLD CHAMPIONS MERYL DAVIS AND CHARLIE WHITE CLAIMED GOLD, EDGING THE CANADIANS BY 0.05 POINTS IN THE FREE DANCE FOR A TOTAL SCORE OF 188.55.

NATHAN DENETTE/THE CANADIAN PRESS



▶ Mark Scheifele takes a breather at Canada's world junior selection camp in Calgary yesterday.

Scheifele at centre of Canada's WJC hopes

Jets' top pick looks to come out of camp as national team's No. 1 centre
'I'm going to do whatever it takes to do that,' says confident 18-year-old

Three NHL centres could have played for Canada's junior team, but won't, leading to questions about the country's depth up the middle for the upcoming world junior hockey championships.

Ryan Nugent-Hopkins of the Edmonton Oilers, Ryan Johansen of the Columbus Blue Jackets and Sean Couturier of the Philadelphia Flyers were not released to try out for Canada by their respective NHL clubs.

When the players invited to Canada's selection camp hit the ice for the first time yesterday in Calgary, it looked like only six centres were competing for four jobs on the team.

But head coach Don Hay and Hockey Canada head scout Kevin Prendergast insist Canada won't be short at centre. As many as five who started camp on the wing can also play in the middle, Prendergast said.

"I would do wingers in the middle," Hay agreed prior to the first intra-squad game last night. "There's going to be guys that play out of position. There's going to be roles for different players. I think good players can adapt."

Prendergast has said the team wants two scoring centres and two more to play a two-way game.

Mark Scheifele of the Barrie Colts and Ryan Strome of the Niagara IceDogs are the frontrunners for two of the four jobs. While the world junior championship is considered a 19-year-old's tournament, they are both 18.

Scheifele, from Kitchener, Ont., played seven games with the Winnipeg Jets and scored his first NHL goal before he was returned to the Colts. He is putting it out there that he wants to be the No. 1 centre on the Canadian team.

"I think it's definitely important to make goals like that," Scheifele said. "That's definitely my goal, to be the No. 1 centre. I'm going to do whatever it takes to do that."

Although Strome didn't appear in any regular-season games with the New York Islanders, they kept the Mississauga, Ont., native with the team until Oct. 13.

"They're high-profile young men," Hay said. "They've been exposed to the National Hockey League level and played in some exhibition games and some regular season games.

"They're like anybody else. They have to show us they can play a 200-foot game and be good on both sides of the puck and not just be an offensive guy, but a good defensive guy."

The Jets took Scheifele seventh overall in this year's NHL draft. While he's bigger than Strome at almost six-foot-two and 192 pounds, Prendergast says both have good hockey sense and distribute the puck well.

Scheifele has 13 goals and 23 assists in 19 games for the Colts since returning from the NHL.

Strome, the fifth overall pick the Isles, has 16 goals and 17 assists in 32 games for the IceDogs. The six-foot, 183-pound forward is prepared to be a checking forward if that's what it takes to make the team.

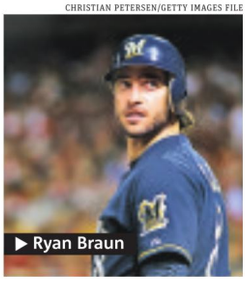
"Everybody's got to go out there and play the body and be gritty and that's what I plan to do," Strome said. THE CANADIAN PRESS

Tryout timeline

Forty-two players reported to camp in Calgary on Saturday.

- **Canadian head coach Don Hay** intends to thin the crowd with the first round of cuts tomorrow morning after watching the players in two intra-squad games.
- **The remaining players** face a team of university selects in an exhibition game tomorrow night. Hay will announce Canada's 22-player roster Wednesday.
- **The tournament** gets underway on Dec. 26 and will be played in Calgary and Edmonton.

CHRISTIAN PETERSEN/GETTY IMAGES FILE



▶ Ryan Braun

MVP Braun facing ban for alleged PED use

Ryan Braun certainly doesn't fit the image fans conjure up when they hear that a baseball slugger has been accused of using performance-enhancing drugs.

Since he joined the Milwaukee Brewers, Braun has belted big home runs not with cartoonishly large muscles, but with a sweet swing and an ultra-quick bat. Last season, he helped drive the Brewers to the playoffs and was voted the NL's Most Valuable Player.

Now Braun finds himself fighting a 50-game suspension after news leaked that he has tested positive. Braun's representatives steadfastly maintain his innocence.

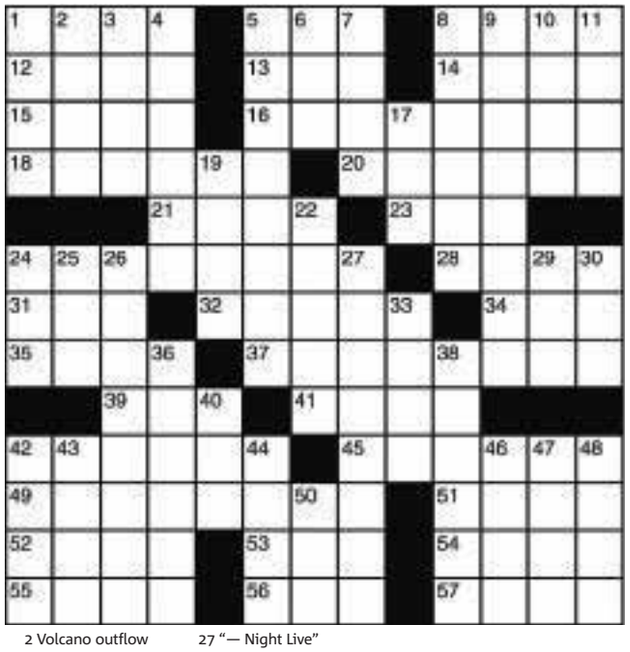
ESPN cited two sources Saturday in first reporting the result, saying Braun tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone, adding that a later test by the World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Montreal determined the testosterone was synthetic.

A spokesman for Braun said in a statement issued to ESPN and The Associated Press that "there are highly unusual circumstances surrounding this case which will support Ryan's complete innocence."

"There was absolutely no intentional violation of the program," Matthew Hiltzik said in a statement sent by the four-time all-star left fielder's representatives.

The case is still being appealed to an arbitrator under MLB's drug program, people familiar with the situation told the AP. The people spoke on condition of anonymity because the appeal is ongoing and said Braun and others involved in the appeals process have known about the positive test since late October. THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Crossword



Across

1 Eastern European
5 Use a crowbar
8 Resistance measures
12 Chantilly, e.g.
13 Individual
14 Reach 212 degrees, perhaps
15 Microwave, for one
16 Willingness to wait
18 No-goodnik
20 Bit of progress
21 Makes a mistake
23 Neither partner
24 New England football team
28 Astronaut Armstrong
31 "This tastes awful!"
32 Wall painting
34 Ram's mate
35 Standard
37 New Jersey city
39 Corn spike
41 Purple shade
42 Sculpture
45 Pale brown monkey
49 Spoke rapid-fire
51 Conflagration
52 Out of the storm
53 — carte
54 Rim
55 Fix
56 Firmament
57 Smell bad

Across

1 Unkempt one
2 Volcano outflow
3 Scored 100 on
4 Plywood layer
5 Boy band, e.g.
6 Genetic letters
7 Bigfoot's cousin
8 Fairy king
9 Award recipients
10 Isinglass
11 Coaster
17 Hostel
19 Bleak
22 Knapsack part
24 Play on words
25 Past
26 Menace
27 "— Night Live"
29 Jima preceder
30 Author Deighton
33 Walesa of Poland
36 In a thick tangle, as hair
38 Close-fitting jacket
40 Regret
42 Unwanted email
43 Story
44 Historic periods
46 Faction
47 Incite
48 Look for
50 Wapiti

▶ Friday's answer

For today's crossword answers and for expanded horoscopes, go to metronews.ca

Sudoku

	6	1	3		8	5	2	
5	2						8	4
		8	7		9	4		
	7			1			3	
		5	4		3	6		
8	1						5	3
	4	3	2		7	8	6	

How to play

Fill in the grid, so that every row, every column and every 3x3 box contains the digits 1-9. There is no math involved. You solve the puzzle with reasoning and logic.

Thursday's answer ▶

Send a KISS

You can now post your kiss, and read even more kisses, at metronews.ca/kiss.

Eleni
i love you Eleni i cant stop thinking bout you your everyday on my mind i love you and will always love you i just want u to know that u r the girl for me and i will love you forever and i will never let that go
FROM TEDDY JAMES

me
Howdie me. Peaches here...not sure if I am the peaches you are looking for. Need more info before I call
FROM PEACHES

Stranger
Thank you ... Thanks for being there for me , for having my back , for making me laugh , for putting a smile on my face , and for being a friend ! I really miss how close we used to be . You needed your space and I give it to you ! Here's your post that you asked for
FROM GUESS WHO

A look at the weather

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY
Min -11° Max -9°	Min -9° Max -7°	Min -14° Max -5°

BT BREAKFAST TELEVISION

Jenna Khan, Weather Specialist

"Weather impacts everything we do. Providing the information you need before you head out that door and take on the day is the best part of my morning." **WEEKDAYS 6 A.M.**

Today's horoscope

♈ **Aries** **March 21-April 20** You will do the opposite of what everyone thinks you will do, not because you have to but because you like to be unpredictable.

♉ **Taurus** **April 21-May 21** The best things in life are free.

♊ **Gemini** **May 22-June 21** There seems to be some tension in your dealings with other people.

♋ **Cancer** **June 22-July 22** Something unexpected will knock you back a bit today and it will take you a while to find your stride again.

♌ **Leo** **July 23-Aug.23** There is nothing you cannot handle. There is nothing you cannot do. Be extraordinary.

♍ **Virgo** **Aug. 24- Sept. 22** If someone annoys you today the best and safest way to deal with them is to turn your back and walk away.

♎ **Libra** **Sept. 23-Oct. 23** You will have to take sides in a dispute of some kind today.

♏ **Scorpio** **Oct. 24-Nov. 22** Put your own needs first today and don't worry that some people may think you are being selfish.

♐ **Sagittarius** **Nov. 23-Dec. 21** You will be extremely active over the next seven days as you strive to complete the various tasks you started in recent weeks.

♑ **Capricorn** **Dec. 22-Jan. 20** Go out of your way to help someone in need.

♒ **Aquarius** **Jan. 21-Feb. 18** Stop dreaming about what you would like to do and actually start doing it.

♓ **Pisces** **Feb. 19-March 20.** Do other people's achievements inspire you or make you envious? If it's the latter you need to realize that envy can motivate you as much as more positive emotions. Envy is only a bad thing if you do nothing with it. **SALLY BROMPTON**

MICHAEL DURHAM/ OREGON ZOO/ THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

Caption contest

PETR DAVID JOSEK/THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

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Write a funny caption for the image above and send it to play@metronews.ca — the winning caption will be published in tomorrow's Metro.

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